

Western industrial powers agree strategy for growth

West Germany and Japan have agreed to stimulate their economies and return for the United States cutting back its consumption of energy. At the West's summit meeting in Bonn yesterday, President Carter gave a pledge to reduce energy imports by 1985 and increase the domestic price of oil to world level by 1980.

Carter pledge on saving energy

Our Economics Staff
July 17
The seven most important industrial nations in West today announced that they had agreed on a "comprehensive strategy" covering energy, environmental and international monetary policy, energy, trade and other issues.

The seven leaders, from Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and Canada, met in Bonn, Germany, to discuss the energy crisis and the need for a more favourable interpretation of the achievement of the meeting.

Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, said that it had converted "rhetoric into reality". President Giscard d'Estaing of France hoped that the decisions taken at the meeting would help move the world from "uncertainty into confidence".

One substantial commitment which has been made in an effort to reduce the huge trade imbalances existing in the world is that Japan has promised to hold the volume of its exports this year to the same level as that achieved in 1977.

The Japanese Government is also supplying its imports to cope with its payments surplus, currently estimated at about \$17,000m (£9,000m). However, Mr. Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, said that because of the rise in the value of the yen the cash level of the surplus might well be above 1977's level.

Although concern about the dollar was one of the main issues of friction between the United States and its partners in the months leading to the summit, the communiqué is vague about currency matters and the dollar does not seem to have been directly discussed.

The United States reaffirmed its position that underlying stability can only be achieved by dealing with the fundamentals, such as inflation and the balance of payments. However, the communiqué does say that countries will intervene in disorderly markets.

There is also a welcome in principle for the scheme for an air boycott agreed on nations giving sanctuary to hijackers.

ing in Bonn yesterday, President Carter gave a pledge to reduce energy imports by 1985 and increase the domestic price of oil to world level by 1980.

European currency stabilization, although it is clearly felt by the United States that it will want to know a great deal more about how the scheme will work.

International monetary policy, which at one stage had been set to dominate the meeting, was in fact relegated to the last of the five main sections into which the communiqué is divided. It comes after growth, energy, trade and developing countries.

The seven leaders said that the further development of nuclear energy was indispensable and it was necessary to reverse the "slippage" in the execution of nuclear power programmes.

But they underlined that the nuclear fuel cycle studies initiated at last year's Downing Street summit would be continued, to provide ways of promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to reduce the risk of proliferation.

No estimate is made by the world leaders of how the economy of the Western industrial nations will, in fact, proceed during the rest of 1978 and 1979. On the basis of the policies being applied before the summit, it was generally expected that there would be reasonably rapid growth for the rest of this year followed by a slow-down in early 1979.

If all the stimulus measures go into effect, and if there is no downturn in other countries during the second half of 1979, it may be possible to get the overall growth rate of the world up to about 4 or 5 per cent by the end of 1979. This would be enough to stabilize unemployment, although probably at a higher level than the 17 million in the industrial world at present.

The United States and Canadian Governments pledged that they would continue to be reliable suppliers of nuclear fuel for the world's atomic power stations, within the framework of existing safeguards. This pledge will remove the uncertainty which has been hanging over the further development of nuclear power in Europe and elsewhere.

The leaders also decided that coal should play an increasingly important part in fulfilling the longer-term energy needs of the world.

Police to get rises of up to 45%

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The police are to get pay rises of up to 45 per cent in two equal instalments: the first on September 1, the second a year later. The decision was generally welcomed last night, but there were rumblings of discontent in some quarters.

The rises were recommended by the Lord Edmund Davies inquiry on the police, published yesterday, and are aimed at restoring morale and halting the serious decline in police manpower. Nobody expected the award to be paid in one go after staged increases had been accepted by the doctors, dentists, the Armed Forces and firemen.

The right to strike has not been conceded, but the report says that should be borne in mind when determining the appropriate level of pay. "On such a fundamental issue as the preservation of law and order the withdrawal of labour would be incompatible with the responsibilities of the police service and contrary to the interests of the nation."

A newly appointed constable will get £3,600 (£2,775 now), a 30 per cent rise, and an officer with 15 years' service will get £5,700 (£3,918), a 45 per cent more. London's acute manpower shortage has been recognized and Metropolitan officers will get an extra £650 non-pensionable annual allowance, payable in two instalments.

One part of the report concentrates on pay and the other on negotiating machinery, which collapsed because of the withdrawal of the Police Federation, the police officers' union. It says the Police Council, which broke down when the federation withdrew in 1976, should be replaced by a new negotiating body with a new name.

The committee recommended that police pay should be updated annually in line with general earnings, but emphasized that the mechanism should not be inflexible. "Police employers' representatives last night said they hoped that a new era of constructive good will could begin."

The report catalogues many reasons why the police deserve a big rise, apart from being compensated for being denied the legal right to strike. They are:

Increases in crime: Indictable offences in England and Wales are up by 163 per cent from 1960 to 1976, and 370 per cent in Scotland. There is a 100 per cent increase in offences (excluding motoring offences) rose by 128 per cent. The situation in London is particularly serious, with indictable offences between 1968 and 1977 up 60 per cent, violence against the person up by 120 per cent.

The report points to the "alarming" fact that in 1974 solved crimes were 23 per cent against 48 per cent in the rest of England and Wales. Terrorism: There were 367 incidents in Britain between 1973 and 1977, and 1977, more than half of them in the Metropolitan Police area.

Public order: Demands are increasingly made on the police to attend at strength at activities including football matches, political meetings and demonstrations. Many policemen have been injured and demands on manpower are heavy, particularly in London. In 1977 there were 583 demonstrations, processions and similar events in London, mostly during the weekend. There were 24 instances when more than a thousand officers were employed with up to 20,000 demonstrators.

Traffic: The total number of offences in 1976 compared with 1960 in England and Wales were 2,480,600 (1,041,500), and in Scotland 154,000 (87,000). Complaints against police: The number of complaints has steadily increased in recent years, having more than doubled in England and Wales between 1970 and 1976. Some are trivial, some malicious. Of 15,600 complaints disposed of in 1976 in England and Wales, 37 per cent were substantiated, and 9 per cent upheld. In all forces each complaint is meticulously investigated, and it is doubtful whether the public is aware of the care with which complaints are investigated and the burden placed on senior officers, the report says. "It is right to recognize that officers who are the subject of complaint are under a great deal of psychological strain while the investigative process is going on."

Continued on page 2, col 1



A tank parked near Heathrow's VIP lounge was part of the heavy security in force there yesterday.

Last-minute bustle at Leeds Castle

From Stewart Tendler
Leeds Castle, Kent

A handwritten sticker across a police accident sign on the A20 announced yesterday the closure of Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, Kent, as final preparations were made for the beginning of the latest Middle East peace talks today.

After the intense security at Heathrow airport, complete with light-armoured tanks, for the arrival of Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Kamel, his Egyptian counterpart, the castle appeared deceptively peaceful from a swaying cornfield a mile away.

Kent police officers, hoisted

pistols in their hips, patrolled the four entrances to the 400 acres of the 1,100-year-old castle. Throughout the day, a stream of United States Embassy Cadillacs drove in to the grounds as staff worked to turn the castle into a suitable venue for the talks.

The decision to use the moated fortress, offered to the British Government as a conference centre in 1976, was made on Sunday after Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, gave a warning to the Americans that the meeting, which was to have been held at the Churchill Hotel in London, was vulnerable to attack.

Cars drove past the closed golf course loaded with cartons of plastic cups and other items indispensable to international meetings. Convoys of Post Office engineers arrived to put in additional telephone lines (the castle normally has one only).

For part of the afternoon the

castle's rural ambience was disturbed by the charter of a procession of helicopters. Before Mr. Dayan's arrival in a helicopter of the Queen's Flight, two larger military helicopters circled the grounds and landed briefly on part of the golf course.

Police stood guard on the roof peering over the battlements while a lookout scoured the surrounding countryside from one of the turrets, the crested flag of the former owner fluttering near his shoulder.

Other police officers with dogs strolled across the lawns as Mr. Dayan stepped from his helicopter on to the golf green to be driven the short distance across the moat to the castle by car.

Mr. Kamel arrived later in another helicopter of the Queen's Flight. Both his helicopter and Mr. Dayan's were shadowed by a RAF Puma thought to be carrying some bodyguards.

While the Egyptian Foreign Minister was landing, two huge United States Air Force helicopters circled overhead waiting to land Mr. Vance and his retinue. They had arrived in Britain at RAF Manston, Kent. Throughout the day, tourists pulled up in the narrow country roads to peer or catch a glimpse of what is described as "the loveliest castle in the world".

Although the talks are being hosted by the Americans, British ministers are expected to visit the delegates during the two-day conference, which will fill the castle almost to overflowing. At a pinch 35 people can be crammed in to the accommodation, which includes genuine four-poster beds. Up to 50 rooms had been booked at the London hotel.

A nearby hotel has become one of the bases for some staff and the centre for the growing number of journalists arriving.

Newspapers, page 5

Opening of Ukrainian dissident's trial

Moscow, July 17.—Mr. Lev Lukyanenko, a Ukrainian human rights activist, was reported to have gone on trial today in the latest chapter of the Soviet campaign to crush the dissident Helsinki movement.

Dissident sources believed that the trial had opened in the town of Gorodnya, in the Ukraine, because witnesses had been called to testify there tomorrow.

Mr. Lukyanenko, who is 50 and has served a 15-year sentence for anti-state activities, was arrested last December and charged with anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. The offence carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in a labour camp and internal exile.

He is a founder member of the Ukrainian branch of the Helsinki movement. A newspaper report of the trial of a member of the Lithuanian Helsinki group, whom it identified only as Petkus. He was sentenced to 15 years in a labour camp and exile.

Mr. Petkus, who is 48, was called a criminal and slanderer who "did not live honestly a single day in his life", the report in the newspaper Tiesza said.

Mr Carter faces anger of 'hawks' over arms sale talks with Russia

From David Cross
Washington, July 17

The Carter Administration today took the calculated risk of further upsetting anti-Soviet hardliners on Capitol Hill by announcing that it had decided to go ahead with a new round of negotiations with Moscow on reducing overseas arms sales.

Disclosing that the talks would resume in Helsinki tomorrow, a State Department spokesman issued a long explanation emphasizing how important the talks were.

In an apparent attempt to head off trouble from hawks in Congress, the statement also referred to the "deep concern" it was in the interest of America's national security to proceed with them. The rapid build-up of weapons sales overseas posed "a serious risk" to regional stability and thus to world peace, he added.

Although the spokesman said that the new round of talks in Helsinki had been planned for several weeks, he declined to

say whether their cancellation had been considered in the light of last week's Soviet trials of human rights activists. Last week, however, Administration officials conceded that all aspects of American-Soviet cooperation were under review.

In this particular case, as with the even more important strategic arms limitation talks, President Carter has clearly decided that no useful purpose would be served by cancelling or postponing them.

A reduction of overseas arms sales is one of the principal aims of his foreign policy.

Meanwhile, attempts to secure the release of Anatoly Shcharansky and Alexander Ginzburg, the two leading dissidents sentenced last week, are apparently continuing but in considerable secrecy.

120 prisoners in Portuguese jail escape

Lisbon, July 17.—More than 120 prisoners, many serving long sentences for violent crimes, today escaped from Alcaenteira Jail through a tunnel burrowed under the walls. Up to late afternoon only 28 had been recaptured.

Police, National guard and Air Force personnel using helicopters set up roadblocks and mounted a nationwide search. Earlier this month nearly 200 inmates of the same jail ended a week-long hunger strike after an inquiry commission was appointed to investigate their grievances over prison conditions.—Reuters and AP.

20 flights a day to Germany

Phantastisch!

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In all, you can fly to no fewer than 9 German destinations. See your Travel Agent or British Airways Travel Shop.

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We'll take more care of you



20 subsidy for firms taking long-term jobs

Experiment in using subsidies to encourage long-term employment in Merseyside, Tyne and Wear and Leeds areas is to start next month. Employers will be able to claim £20 a week for up to 26 weeks if they recruit anyone who has been without a job for more than a year. The scheme is subject to European Commission approval.

£2m land scheme

Further £2.2m is to be spent on the reclamation of land in Wales. The Welsh Development Agency, which is financing the work, is allocating £3.1m of the money to Mid Glamorgan, a county that has suffered much from industrial dereliction. West Glamorgan will receive £2.5m.

Obituro man dies

Fyodor Kulakov, a Soviet Politburo member, died of heart failure yesterday. He was 62 and considered a likely successor to President Brezhnev.

Record score gained in England victory

England beat New Zealand by 126 runs at Manchester in the second of their two one-day international matches for the Prudential Trophy. England's score of 278 for five was a record for this competition. Radley of Middlesex was England's top scorer with 117 not out, his highest in Prudential matches.

Retail sales buoyant

Retail sales are still expanding quite strongly as the recovery in real earnings continues. The increase by volume in the first half of this year was 3½ per cent above last year's average. But there are clear indications that the expansion in the economy will not last much beyond the autumn.

Korchnoi is laughing

Viktor Korchnoi had the first laugh of the world chess championship when a Philippines military band struck up "The Internationale" instead of the Soviet national anthem at the opening ceremony in Baguio. He had further reason to smile when he won the right to play white today in the first game against Anatoly Karpov, the champion.

Banned clergyman flees S Africa

The Rev Theo Kotze, the banned South African clergyman, has fled the country to Botswana and is believed to be coming to Britain. A former Western Cape director of the Christian Institute, he was banned on October 19 last year and prohibited from attending any gatherings and writing or speaking for publication. His wife, Helen, is in Britain.

Nelson Mandela is 60

Mr Nelson Mandela, regarded as undisputed leader by South African blacks who wish to free themselves from white domination, is 60 today. He is serving a life sentence on Robben Island. In Britain, his birthday is being commemorated at special meetings and by the dispatch of 10,000 birthday cards. In Bradford, in South Africa, his family are praying for him.

Prison fire: A small fire was started at Crumlin Road prison, Belfast, shortly after bomb-making equipment had been found there.

Washington: Bishop Muzorewa campaigns in America to win support for ending sanctions against Rhodesia.

Leader page 15
Letters: On cutting the Budget deficit, from Mr. M. V. Posner; on boycotting the Moscow Olympics, from Mr. B. E. Hyman.
Features, pages 12 and 14
Geoffrey Smith examines the Thatcher-Callaghan leadership stakes; Roger Darlington on special advisers; Social focus.

Arts, page 11
Paul Ovey on the Paris exhibition Paris-Berlin; Stanley Reynolds on A Quiet World (BBC 2); Keith Loveland on new music by Peter Racine Fricker and John Hamilton; concert notices by Max Harrison and Joan Chissell.

Obituary, page 16
Mr M. T. Longman; Dr R. K. Murton.

Sport, pages 8-10
Football: Tottenham Hotspur's Argentine World Cup players.

arrive; Rugby Union: Clubs urged not to choose violent players; Racing: Michael Seely's prospects for four meetings.
Business News, page 12-24
Stock markets: Gilt edged went ahead on news that the second call for special deposits had been postponed; the FT ordinary share index rose 4.9 to 479.3 on the Bonn summit and continuing relief with the trade figures.

Financial Editor: Keeping the lid on interest rates; Rank Organisation: a more promising view emerges; Timber companies: rating possibilities.

Business features: David Blake discusses the change of view noticeable at the latest summit on ways of dealing with the world's economic problems; Peter Hill on British worries about textile imports into the EEC.
Business Diary: The Abbey National and Hollywood.

British airways

We'll take more care of you

HOME NEWS

Talks soon to raise recruitment of disabled

Donald MacIntyre, Labour Reporter

Mr John Grant, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment, is to meet the trade union Congress soon to discuss ways of increasing the recruitment of disabled people.

There is widespread evidence that private and public employers are failing to meet statutory quotas for disabled workers.

Mr Grant was asked earlier this week by Mr Terence Walker, Labour MP for Kingswood, to discuss the quota figures for disabled people in the public sector, including the trade unions, political parties, national newspapers and television companies.

The proportion of registered disabled people employed by the public sector is less than the 10 per cent, which is the quota for employers of 20 or more employees in accordance with the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944 and 1958.

In a parliamentary written question, Mr Grant has told Mr Walker that such employers are the same difficulty as the private sector in recruiting disabled people, it adds that "there is no room for complacency".

Mr Grant says that most of the disabled people who are not employed are not registered, therefore the true figures would be higher. Only statistics for disabled people are available for the public sector.

He adds: "Both private and public employers need to employ more disabled people and are convinced they could do so despite the very real difficulties."

Among the three biggest trade unions and the TUC itself, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (34 per cent) was fulfilling its quota, while the two biggest political parties were doing so.

Among newspaper employers, only Associated Newspapers (3.1), The Daily Telegraph (3.0) and the Morning Post (2.0) were fulfilling their quotas. The Times newspaper Ltd figure was 1.4 per cent and for The Evening Standard 0.4 per cent.

None of the network television companies fulfilled its quota; nor did the House of Commons (1.3 per cent), the House of Lords (2.2) or the Corporation of British Industries (1.7).

Mr Grant said newspaper employers pointed out their great dependence on trade unions for recruitment. That he was pursuing their demands to discuss with the TUC.

A city looking for a second opinion about its status

A new publicity presentation prepared by the city of Manchester (which under the 1974 local government reorganisation, some misguided bureaucrats attempted to have called the district of Manchester) claims twice that this is Britain's second city.

The proclamation is made at the beginning and at the end of the colour slide presentation, the sound commentary and when it was shown to Manchester journalists some had a temerity to point out that the lesser mortals like themselves used that phrase in their letters to editors inevitably came from Birmingham.

On the suggestion of the Birmingham journalists who were invited to the preview, many of whom were a trifle hurt by the claim, the city fathers put an allegedly bad press Manchester had been receiving, the presentation is to be shown on Wednesday to an invited group of London journalists. However, the question of which is Britain's second city remains. As a recipient of a great many letters from Birmingham, I asked for the city of 61,800 souls.

Councillor Edward Hanson, Lord Mayor, said: "I suppose it does us good to have a

Regional report

John Chartres Manchester

Little competition, but what is there to argue about? Birmingham's population is double Manchester's; exports all over the world are double those of Manchester, and our penny rate brings in £2m.

Mr Anthony Beaumont Dark, leading spokesman for Birmingham Conservatives, said: "There is no room for argument. Like a well-known boxer, we just know we are the great one."

Understandably, different views are held in Manchester where the population within the closely confined city boundaries amounts to only 490,000 although about three million people live within what is called Greater Manchester, and 17 million within 18 miles.

Councillor Trevor Thomas, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, listed a great many claims, including the completion of slum clearance, the application of the Clean Air Act, and the existence of what most certainly is the nation's second international airport.

65,000 for blind patient

Mr Joseph Quayson, aged 48, became blind while undergoing treatment at the London spinal for a groin complaint, awarded £65,000 agreed damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Croom-Johnson gave the award by consent under the City and East London Area Health Authority.

logged Britons dismissed

Two Britons flogged publicly Saudi Arabia for distributing me-made alcohol have been dismissed by their employer, Sino Universal Ltd, of Row, Crawley, Sussex.

Mr Nigel Maidment, aged 27, and Mr Brian Cooper, aged 35, were dismissed while on extended leave after returning to Britain last month.

royal Tournament

The results of competition at the field gun competition at Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London, were: Fleet Air Arm, 2nd 52.8sec, no penalties; 1st 52.8sec, no penalties; 2nd 53.4sec, no penalties.

Shooting totals in the competition were: Fleet Air Arm, 55.1sec; Devonport, 2min 15.2sec; Portsmouth, 54.2

Television and radio gearing for election

By Kenneth Gosling

The political parties and broadcasters will get to grips this week with ways to keep the public's attention focused on the general election campaign.

The Committee on Party Political Broadcasting meets today for the first time in over two years, at the behest, it was said in one official quarter, of "one of the minor parties". Today's proceedings are expected to be no more than a preliminary canter over the election course.

The broadcasters and politicians represented on the committee will no doubt have in mind the comments of the chairman, Mr John Birt, in the allocation of programme time: "We hope they (the political parties) will recognize that too much party political broadcasting is likely to produce diminishing returns rather than rewards."

The broadcasters, the committee said, should be responsible for the wish of political parties to communicate directly with the electorate with the strongly expressed wish of the audience that those broadcasts should not be too frequent.

The committee added: "This may put the broadcasters in the dog house with the party political bosses, but it is preferable to the party organizations having a free hand to organize as many party broadcasts as they see fit."

However, little if anything is likely to be changed as the result of previous election experience. There may be pressure on the main parties to hold their daily press conferences at 11 o'clock.

A single venue—St John's, Smith Square, has been suggested—but the broadcasters who have to fit the other election programmes into their schedules and will have the last word.

The party political broadcasts are likely to remain, as for the October election in 1974, at 9 pm. The BBC prefers that time because it has common junctions between BBC 1 and BBC 2 and it points out that independent television also frequently begins programmes at 9 pm.

Whether the party political broadcasts should be followed by "independent discussion", with questioning of the speakers, dates will remain the same, by journalists, is still an open question.

In the main, the broadcasters consider that the level of coverage in the autumn of 1974 was about right, so the pattern for the next election will be similar to that.

The chief difference this time is that four years after the last election there will be much more electronic equipment involved and new electronic methods of news gathering will be important.

The ground rules for candidates, however, they are set out in a pamphlet published by the Independent Television Companies' Association.

The guide lists what candidates may and may not do. For example, they may appear as an actor, musician, singer, or other entertainer in any programme that was fixed before the election period, but not as a newscaster, interviewer, "anchorman" or presenter in current affairs and discussion programmes during the campaign.

never get rid of film, even in news production and certainly not in the documentary", Mr Francis said.

The experimental period of electronic news-gathering ends in October, and before then unions and managers will discuss the lessons learned. Mr Francis, previously the BBC's controller in Northern Ireland, believes that in two or three years half the news transmitted or more will probably be covered in that way. The full benefits may not be apparent until the full range of equipment is available.

There would be a steady build-up in Britain, with no redundancies, simply the use of different disciplines. "You will

Electronic news-gatherer looks ahead

Mr Richard Francis, director of news and current affairs, BBC Television, regards it as one of his aims to work himself out of a job. He believes the boundaries between news and current affairs have been too rigid for too long.

A loudspeaker in his office bursts into life and a voice announced the Spanish camping site tragedy. He got up, closed the curtains, and the computer characters on the Ceefax set, one of three in the room, jumped into sharper focus. He operated the remote control and got a news flash on the latest development.

We were at the time talking about the future and the place in it of electronic news-gathering techniques—lightweight equipment that will mean, as it develops, a speedier news service to the viewer, via studios and Post Office links.

"We have to ask questions of ourselves working in broadcast journalism", he said. "Current affairs is just as much

interested in facts as the news side. News is not simply fact; a great deal is propaganda from all sorts of sources and it is also to do with attitudes and opinions."

Electronic news-gathering, he suspected, would do more than simply provide an electronic image in place of a film image; it would enhance the logic of television journalism.

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never get rid of film, even in news production and certainly not in the documentary", Mr Francis said.



Mr Richard Francis: More technology to come

£300m being saved in unclaimed benefits

By Pat Healy Social Services Correspondent

Nearly a million people are losing up to £12 a week by not claiming the supplementary benefit to which they are entitled, a new study from the Supplementary Benefits Commission shows today. They are saving the Exchequer about £300m a year in unclaimed benefits.

The study shows that the extent of non-claiming is not as wide as suggested by national consumer and pressure groups, but the commission is sufficiently concerned to be taking steps to increase claims. It is aiming at increasing the present level of claims from about 75 per cent to 90 per cent, paying £200m of unclaimed benefit to about 600,000 people.

The study is based on a special study of Family Expenditure Survey data for 1975. It shows that 600,000 pensioners were then losing an average of £2.10 a week by not claiming. About 130,000 unemployed people were losing £9 a week on average, while 40,000 one-parent families failed to claim benefits of £13.20.

More recent figures, to be published this autumn in the commission's annual report, show that the proportion of claimants has improved, but the amount of unclaimed benefit has gone up. Among pensioners, the average amount of unclaimed benefit in 1976 was £2.70 a week; for the sick it had risen from £5.60 to £6.20; 85p.).

and for the unemployed it had risen by £1.20 a week to £10.20.

Claims by one-parent families increased from 89 per cent in 1975 to 91 per cent in 1976. The average amount of unclaimed benefit went down, however, from £13.20 to £11.70, probably because of the introduction in 1976 of the extra £1.50 a week for a first child.

The study states that many people not claiming are entitled to small amounts of money, or to benefit for a limited period. Among pensioners, about a third not claiming are entitled to less than £1 a week, and among younger people the same proportion were entitled to benefit for less than a month.

Half of those not claiming were living in households with incomes more than a fifth above the supplementary benefit level.

Professor David Donnison, chairman of the commission, said yesterday: "We are missing one in four people, but on the money side more than four fifths is being paid out."

The commission wants to concentrate efforts on improving claims among families with children, who its own research indicates are the most hard-pressed of all claimants, with pensioners second. It will try to ensure that comprehensible leaflets about entitlement are made available when people claim unemployment or child benefit and when pensioners receive their order books.

Take-up of Supplementary Benefits Stationery Office, 85p.).

Disapproval of caning in children's homes

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, has responded to calls for a total ban on corporal punishment in children's homes by making clear that he disapproves of the practice. His view is stated in a letter of advice from Mr William Utting, Chief Social Work Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, to all directors of social service.

The letter is intended as a reminder that there are already strict regulations about corporal punishment pending revision.

In it Mr Utting writes: "The Secretary of State does not believe that the infliction of physical pain as a punishment is either desirable or proper in a professional caring relationship."

He reminds directors that corporal punishment should not be used unless the local authority has given prior approval in writing. Guidance to staff should make clear that corporal punishment is banned unless the local authority has approved it as an additional measure under the regulations.

BR chairman's plea

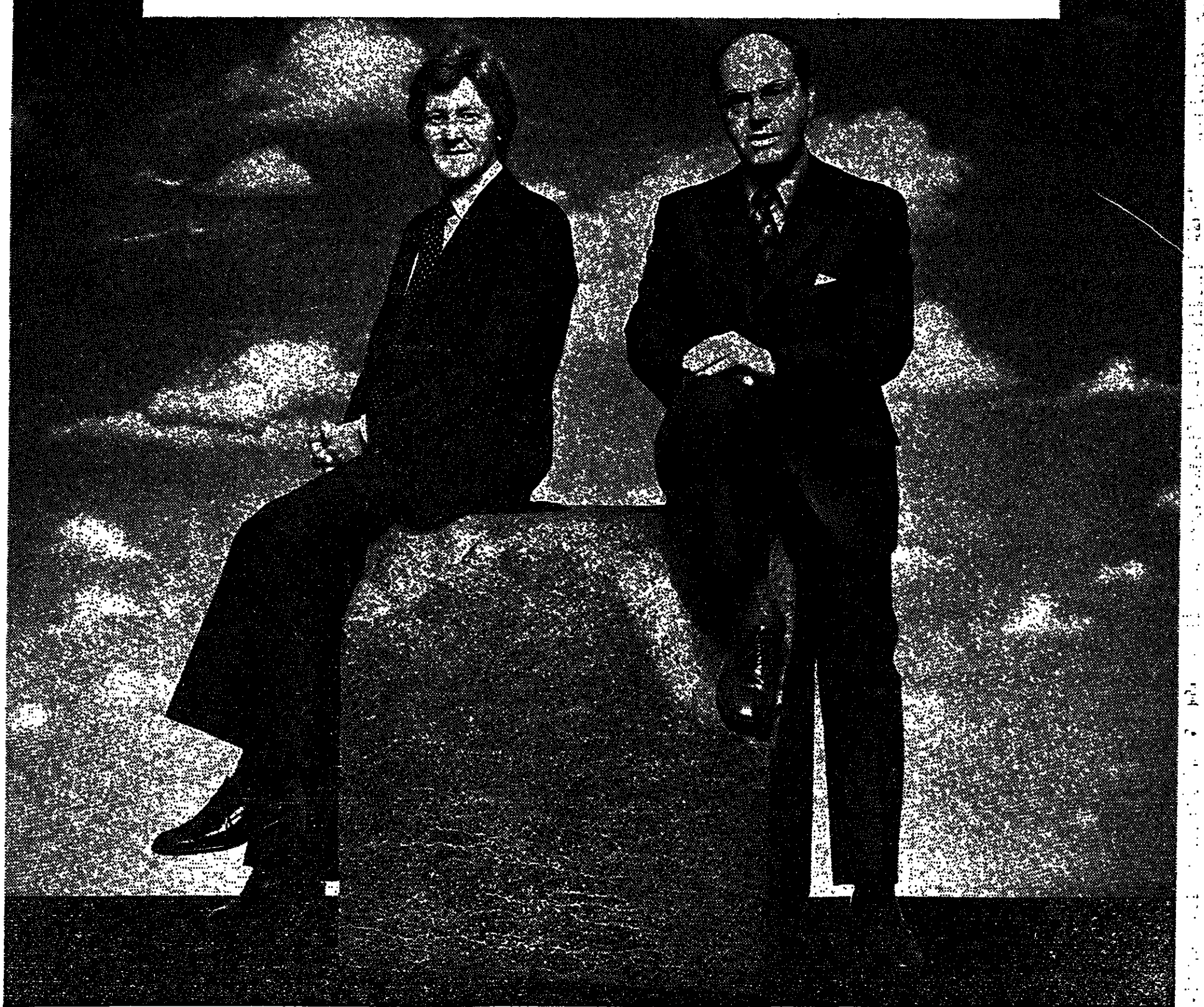
Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, has signed a petition at Charlbury, Oxfordshire, this local station, asking British Rail not to abolish the coal fire in the waiting room.

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Mr. T. G. Clark, on the right, is the Managing Director of Engineering Laboratory Equipment Ltd., Hemel Hempstead, whose £2,800,000 exports this year are going to 120 countries. Mr. Stuart Rennison is Sales Director.



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To make an appointment or for information contact the Information Officer, Export Credits Guarantee Department—quoting reference TQ—at Glasgow, Belfast, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Cambridge, Bristol, London West End, Croydon or Tottenham offices; or John Swales, Information Section, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, London EC2P 2EL. (Tel: 01-606 6699, Extn. 258).

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WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Sodium blast factory in northern Italy is ordered to close

From Peter Nichols
Rome, July 17
The lead factory where stocks of sodium exploded to create a poisonous cloud over part of Trento on Friday night has been ordered closed after a joint meeting of the Trento provincial and municipal councils tonight.
The order, a "suspension of activities" at the factory, but the intent is to prevent work completely until safety requirements are met. If the proprietor fails to comply, the suspension could become final.
The council meeting tonight was picked up by demonstrators who said that the local authorities should have acted with greater speed.
The explosion was caused during a heavy storm when rainwater entered the stores of sodium and set off about 200 tonnes in a chain reaction. A fire ensued and a cloud of toxic sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) passed over a part of the northern Italian city, causing panic. No one was seriously hurt and, according to the authorities, no damage was done.
The gas caused severe irritation to the eyes. Tests showed that unpleasant effects were felt up to 300 yards from the factory.
There was no danger to life, the authorities said, but the sodium would rust cars. Fruit and vegetables would need to be well washed.
It is pointed out that the explosion would have been serious if workers had been in the factory. As it was, the factory was empty and the cloud passed in about three hours.
It is also pointed out that there would have been no danger of an explosion if the management had continued to use liquid sodium. Instead, at some unspecified date in the recent past, solid sodium had been imported from the Soviet Union without the local authorities being informed.
"We think the firm is responsible for what happened," a spokesman said for the provincial government last night. "They were not equipped to deal with solid sodium and did not tell the authorities they were using it."
The Sioi lead factory produced petrol additives. Four people are said to have died there since 1960 and there have been 500 cases of poisoning and 31 cases of permanent injury. The owner, Signor Carlo Luigi Randaccio, was sentenced in 1975 to five years' imprisonment for manslaughter and wilful neglect in connexion with one fatal accident at the plant.
The panic in Trento on Friday night was partly caused by reminders of the disaster two years ago at Seveso, the little town near Milan that was contaminated with the dioxin TCD after an explosion in a chemicals factory.
There is a growing demand in Italy for more stringent controls over factory safety.

Mr Young keeps view on political prisoners

From Peter Safford
Washington, July 17
Mr. Andrew Young, the American representative at the United Nations, is only partly persuaded about his widely quoted remarks last week about political prisoners in the United States. He said in an interview published today in the *International Herald Tribune*.
He concedes that he overestimated the case and says: "I guess it was particularly bad to quote the Soviet system of justice with the system of justice in the United States. I don't think those two can be equated."
But he does not concede that he overstated the number of people involved in the United States, whom he estimated as "hundreds, perhaps thousands." It was a casual statement which perhaps should not have been made, especially not at this time, and I'm reluctant to discuss it now," he says in the interview.
But I assure you that I'll come back to the question of what is a political prisoner in the United States."
As to whether he felt hurt by the criticism of him, he says: "It hurts, only because I am concerned over the possibility of having hurt the country or President Carter. But I believe that most of the things that I have been criticized for were right and in the long run one of these days, maybe a year now or so, it might be time to go back and recall some of the scandalous headlines."
"I think you will find that a lot of them were pretty accurate and at the time some purpose. That he accepted the rebuke from Mr. Carter. "I understood that it was upsetting to have a remark like that out of an interview, and left to give the impression that I did not understand the significance of the

San Marino VPs vote for Communists

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, July 17
The Great and General Council (Parliament) of San Marino tonight approved by one vote a new Communist-led Government.
In terms of the republic's history, going back to the fourth century AD, the Communist leadership is a reversion. San Marino had a Communist Government after the war.
After 21 years, the left can now or less claim to have been ousted back to power. In fact, the general election the Christian Democrats emerged as the largest single party with 5 out of the 60 seats in Parliament.

New President chosen in North Yemen

Riyadh, July 17
Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh, aged 36, was elected President of North Yemen today to succeed President Ahmed Hassan al-Ghashmi, who was assassinated last month, the Saudi press agency reported from Sana.
Under the constitution, the new President will also be the commander of the armed forces.
President Ghashmi died when a parcel bomb, which North Yemen said was sent by South Yemen with an emissary, exploded on June 24. South Yemen has denied the charge.—Reuters.

'Doorstep sale' curbs defended

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, July 17
Scathing criticism by British MPs of a draft EEC directive on "doorstep sales" has spurred the European Commission, the author of the proposal, into issuing an explanatory statement exposing what it considers to be the ill-founded nature of some of the objections.
In a debate in the House of Commons on June 28 the directive drew fire from all quarters of the political compass. One member described as the product of "stupidity and arrogance out of ignorance" another said it should be consigned to the wastepaper basket.
The proposed directive seeks to establish Community-wide minimum standards of protection for consumers who enter into contracts for the cash or credit sale of goods and services over the value of about £10 away from business premises.
While it is widely acknowledged that consumers do need some protection against being hurried into the rash purchase of unwanted goods by high-pressure doorstep salesmen, the Commission's proposals are too broad and ill-defined.
One of the most persistent criticisms of the draft directive concerns its application to agency mail-order trading, which in Britain retails products to more than 15 million people.
In a background brief released here today, the Commission is unrepentant that mail-order trading should be covered by the directive, arguing that "when an agent calls on the prospectively customer elements of surprise and pressure can be brought to bear."
The Commission also denies that the directive would saddle mail-order firms with significant extra documentation. Its

'Spiritual ties' forged with E. Timor

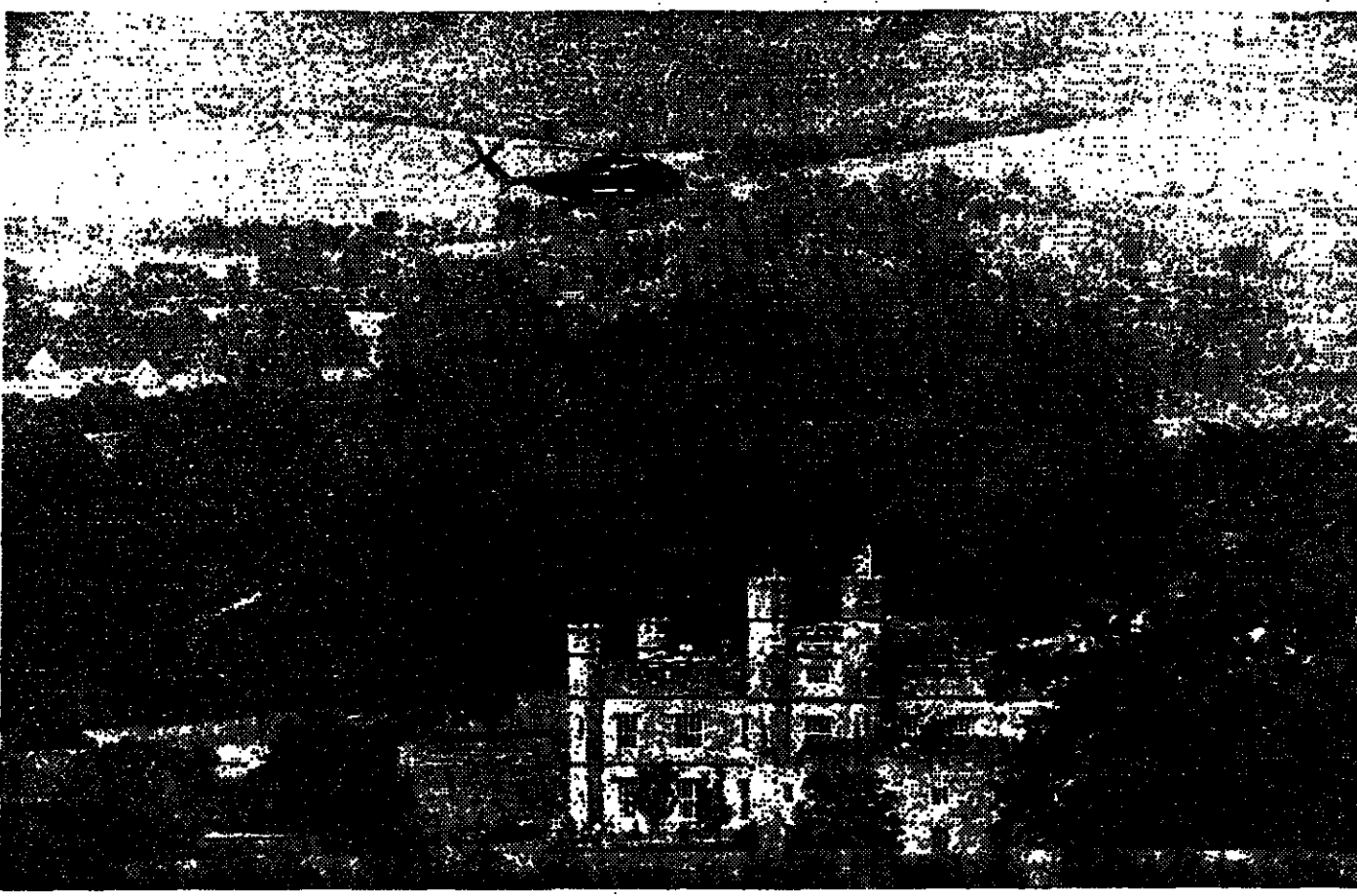
Dili, East Timor, July 17
The restoration of peace and order in this former Portuguese colony was an urgent matter before development of the backward province could begin, President Suharto of Indonesia told the East Timor regional parliament today.
On the second day of his visit to commemorate the second anniversary of "integration" of the territory into Indonesia, General Suharto said it was urgent because the people had been subjected for a long time to terrorism by irresponsible elements.
He was "very pleased that the people themselves are participating in helping the state security apparatus in restoring peace and order."
He told the parliament that to bring conditions back to normal Dili Airport and the harbour were being opened for regular traffic.
The reopening of the eastern half of Timor island is the "most essential measure" for the development of this formerly embargoed territory, President Suharto said.
He hoped that economic activities within the region and with other regions would proceed smoothly.
Apart from opening up the island for economic development, the President, who arrived with the biggest delegation he had ever taken on regional trips, said "spiritual ties" had also been established between the central government in Jakarta and the Timorese people by the inauguration last Sunday of a television relay station in Dili.
Shortly after his speech before the parliamentary session the President flew by helicopter to Maliana where the Indonesian Government is building a big ricefield irrigation project.
Earlier in his 20-minute address, he congratulated the 600,000 people of East Timor for making "a very correct historic decision" two years ago to integrate themselves with Indonesia.
"For hundreds of years we were separated by barriers erected by the colonial governments, and we were separated by force in our own backyard," he said.
"Ever since my arrival in Dili yesterday I have received warm and cordial welcomes everywhere. I felt like meeting by bloodbrothers again after a long separation."
The Indonesian head of state was expected back in Jakarta today.—Agence France-Presse.

Heatwave drives snakes to town

Teheran, July 17—Thousands of snakes, scorpions and insects have moved from surrounding desert into the town of Ahwaz in south-west Iran, where heatwave temperature above 50°C (121°F), with 94 per cent humidity, have been recorded.
Newspapers said an 18-year-old peasant boy had died from a scorpion's sting and a dozen people had been treated for snakebite.—Reuters.

Argentine regime praised by Spanish Chief of Staff

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, July 17
A rally of the extreme right attended by tens of thousands of people in Madrid coincided today with published reports that the Chief of Staff of the Spanish Army had praised the "legitimacy and justice" of the Argentine military regime in a speech in Buenos Aires.
Fascist and neo-fascist leaders from Italy, France, Argentina and Spain gathered at the main Madrid bullring to commemorate the forty-second anniversary of the military uprising which brought General Franco to power.
To some extent, however, their speeches were muted by echoes of the fiery improvised harangues delivered by Lieutenant-General Tomas de Linares, the Chief of Staff, on the other side of the Atlantic, as he planned a medal on the chest of General Videla.
In a speech applicable to both Spain and Argentina, General Linares is reported to have said: "Only history can judge the legitimacy of the use of force." He left no doubt that in the case of Argentina he felt it was justified.
His remarks will be examined closely by ministers of the Suarez Government, as



A military helicopter yesterday flying over Leeds Castle in Kent where the Middle East talks begin today.

New peace impetus likely from castle meeting

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent
The talks between the Egyptian and Israeli Foreign Ministers, which began at Leeds Castle near Maidstone, Kent, today in a rather more hopeful atmosphere than had been expected, will concentrate on proposals for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
The purpose of the meeting is to explore the ideas behind the Egyptian and Israeli peace plans, with the aim of starting in the next few weeks a new series of negotiations on an overall settlement.
In the hope of encouraging open discussion the first session today between Mr. Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Kamel, his Egyptian counterpart, will be held in a drawing room in

stead of a conference room in which the delegates would have faced one another across a table.
American officials were confident yesterday that, as a result of the Leeds Castle talks, new negotiations would be agreed by the Egyptian and Israeli Governments. They expect a date will be announced soon after the foreign ministers return home for consultations.
This impression was confirmed by Mr. Dayan on his arrival, amid very tight security, at Heathrow airport yesterday. "I would like to see a basis for discussion laid down for future meetings, although speaking before these coming talks, that may be a little premature," he said.
"But I would like to see these take place in the not too distant future—maybe in two weeks or so. I don't mind where they are held. It can be

Egypt, Israel, the Sinai or anywhere. It does not matter to me." (El Arish, a small Sinai coastal town, has been mentioned in diplomatic circles as a possible venue.)
Explaining the main focus of discussion on the West Bank and Gaza, American officials said yesterday that both sides recognized that more detailed work was required in this area before they could return to discussion of the declaration of a set of principles to cover the peace settlement as a whole.
The American hope is that during the next two days Mr. Dayan and Mr. Kamel will explain their Governments' approaches to the problem of the West Bank and Gaza, matters which touch directly on the Palestinians' position, and that each side will then seek clarification of the other's statements,

so that a real dialogue will develop.
The Americans say that too much should not be read into negative comments from Egypt or Israel.
Christopher Walker writes from Cairo: On the direct orders of President Sadat, the Egyptian Government today emphasized publicly that it was not prepared to make any concessions on the key issues of land or sovereignty during the talks at Leeds Castle.
The announcement, in a Cairo radio broadcast and in the city's three state-controlled newspapers this morning, was made in answer to an Israeli radio broadcast which indicated that President Sadat had disclosed privately in Austria last week that he was prepared to tolerate some limited form of Israeli presence on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

Iranian helicopter shot down

Teheran, July 17—An Iranian Army helicopter was shot down, killing the crew, when it strayed across the border with Soviet Turkmenistan last month.
Two unarmed training helicopters lost their way in fog near Iran's north-eastern border and entered Soviet air space. As a counter-action by their air defences one helicopter caught fire and was lost with its crew, said the official Pars news agency. This is interpreted as being shot down.
The other helicopter was badly damaged but managed to land, and the crew were handed over to Iranian authorities.—Reuters.

Breton autonomists' trial opens in Paris

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, July 17
The trial of 14 Breton autonomists opened in Paris today at the Court of State Security in a low key, markedly different atmosphere of high drama of the similar trials which took place in 1972.
The accused, four of them women, refrained from any aggressive histrionics, such as denying the competence of French colonial justice, which would have unnecessarily provoked the judges.
Instead of scores of witnesses which the defence originally intended to call, only four are now to appear. The reason is that in the years since the last trials, the mood of French, and even of Breton, opinion has changed.
The destruction of a television relay station in Brittany last October, which deprived viewers of western France of programmes for several months, and even more the bomb explosions in the Palace of Versailles last month, have had a distinctly negative impact. That was why the case was being heard now, with what the defence this morning criticized as precipitate haste.
M. René Kerhousse, a member of the French cooperation mission in Kinshasa, who unexpectedly turned up in court today, was immediately placed under arrest and put in the dock. The 14 accused belong to the Côte du Nord Branch of the Breton Republican Army, the military wing of the autonomist Breton Liberation Front, if the term is an appropriate description of what the judicial investigation revealed as being a very loose association of small groups of politically disparate activists.
They are accused of carrying out 13 bomb attacks, including the spectacular bombing of the law courts of St Brieuc and St Malo between 1975 and 1977.
It was the arrest at St Brieuc of M. Georges Joutin, aged 22, unemployed, and Serge Roffin, aged 30, a teacher, born of a Russian father and a Breton mother, who can speak and write fluently in Breton, while delegating the defence to a Bretonian lawyer, which enabled the police to lay hands on the whole group.
Two of the accused had already been sentenced in 1968 by the Court of State Security, but since set free. The weapons, antique-looking Mausers and a Belgian telescopic rifle, were on display in a glass case, along with an assortment of brown paper parcels and suitcases used to transport explosives and fuses, stolen from quarries and building sites.
The defence plea that the hearing of these cases should be postponed till the end of the summer, as M. Kerhousse had not been heard by the investigating magistrate, was rejected, and the trial proceeded in the presence of a few rather anaemic people at the back of the almost empty courtroom.
There were some cheers when Maître Leclerc, one of the defence counsel, suggested that the court involuntarily acknowledge the existence of Brittany—not an administrative entity—by mentioning it in the indictment.
The afternoon, two of the accused replied in Breton to questions by the court president. Their counsel asked for an interpreter, but this was overruled and the trial proceeded. It is expected to go on until the middle of the week.

Brussels team in Turkey to test feeling on EEC

Ankara, July 17—A two-member delegation from the European Community today began assessing Turkey's attitude towards the Nine after relations have effectively been frozen for more than a year.
The team, led by Mr Charles Caporal of the Community's Turkish department was holding two days of technical talks with foreign ministry officials here. No concrete decisions are anticipated.
Turkey, along with Greece, was the first country to get association status with the EEC in 1963 but has since complained that other countries have been given more privileges. A Turkish delegation is to visit Brussels in September to follow up this week's meetings.
The stagnant relationship is shown by the fact that British, Irish and Danish membership in the EEC, dating from 1973, has still not been formally recognized here.
Mr Gunduz Okum, the Turkish Foreign Minister, was host at a working lunch today for 20 Ankara-based envoys from non-aligned states to discuss possible guest status for Turkey in their movement.
Mr Okum said at the weekend that Turkey's involvement with the non-aligned group would not affect its role in either the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or the Central Treaty Organization, but would instead "contribute to the strengthening of détente within the region."
Observers here saw the move, which would amount to less than observer status for Turkey, partly as an effort to counter Greek-Cypriot influence in the movement. The Cyprus Government plans to oppose Turkey's move.—Reuters.

Nazi symbols in Brazilian town

Santa Maria, Brazil, July 17
Swastikas and "Heil Hitler" slogans were found daubed yesterday on public buildings in this Southern Brazilian town.
Similar Nazi inscriptions have been painted in recent weeks elsewhere in the state of

If you make our 11.00 flight to New York you'll arrive in time to catch the closing prices on Wall Street.

If you catch our 13.30 flight to New York you'll arrive in time for afternoon tea at the Plaza.

And if you take our 16.30 flight to New York you'll get to Broadway in time to see "On the Twentieth Century."

Only Pan Am can give you three daily 747s to New York. Pan Am's People. Their experience makes the difference.

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OVERSEAS

Muzorewa campaign to win US support for ending sanctions

From David Cross
Washington, July 17

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, a black moderate member of Rhodesia's transitional Government, today began a week of intensive lobbying here in a fresh attempt to secure American endorsement of the internal settlement.

One of his main aims will be to try to persuade influential members of Congress that economic sanctions against Rhodesia should be lifted. His visit coincides with energetic efforts by Senator Jesse Helms, a Republican from North Carolina, to persuade his colleagues to suspend sanctions, initially for a limited period.

The presence of Bishop Muzorewa in the United States is in itself controversial because official American policy is still to refuse to recognize formally the legality of the interim Government. Under such conditions, the State Department would not normally issue a visa for a visit to the United States by a member of a still illegal regime.

Asked why the bishop had been granted permission to come to Washington, probably for a week, a State Department spokesman said he was a "leading Rhodesian Nationalist" with whom we maintain continued contacts and whom we have always assumed will have an important role to play in any new settlement leading to an independent Zimbabwe.

The spokesman said that requests for visas from leading Rhodesians were being examined on the merits. Bishop Muzorewa's visa had been referred to Washington and approved as quickly as possible, he added.

Although Senator Helms and other Capitol Hill proponents of an end to Rhodesian sanctions claim growing support for their view, any change seems unlikely in the near future. The last vote in the Senate to lift sanctions for an 18-month period was cast at the end of last month, albeit by a narrow majority of 48 votes to 42.

Taking heart from the narrowness of this vote, Senator Helms and his colleagues are expected to try again as soon as possible. They have suggested that the suspension should last for only six months.

and believe that this change will provide sufficient inducement for a change of heart by a sufficient number of senators. Our Salisbury Correspondent writes: The British and American envoys, Mr John Graham, of the Foreign Office, and Mr Stephen Low, the United States Ambassador to Zambia, flew to London tonight to report to their respective Governments on their seven-week mission aimed at setting up an all-party conference on Rhodesia.

The two have just been in Salisbury for five days trying to persuade the Rhodesian Government to attend talks that would include the British and American Governments as well as Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, joint leaders of the Patriotic Front guerrilla forces.

The transitional Government's attitude is that it would attend such talks only if they were constructive and would not jeopardize the internal agreement reached in Salisbury on March 3. So far the four-man Executive Council has not been convinced that there is any justification in going to the proposed talks.

Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, said recently that he was optimistic about the chances of talks taking place, but there is no apparent major shift by the Salisbury Government, although Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, has kept an open mind on the subject. He might reveal more tomorrow when he broadcasts in the United States.

Mr Timothy Peach, a Rhodesian farmer who launched a civilian peace initiative in a war zone east of Salisbury, has been killed by a military helicopter, announced today. He died in an ambush 50 miles from the capital four days ago.—Reuters.

Royal message: Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has sent a message of congratulations to Rhodesia's National Art Gallery. The message, read yesterday at celebrations for the twenty-first anniversary of the gallery, which the Queen Mother opened in 1957, said: "I am so pleased to learn that the gallery has supplied the most recent figures in this country. The announcement of his death was made in the name of all the ruling party and Government organs of the Soviet Union."

Mr Raymond Vande Wiele, formerly chief of obstetrics and gynaecology at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centre, said in a deposition filed with the court that he did destroy the embryo, because he felt the doctors in charge of the fertilization process lacked the experience, skill and expertise to produce a baby.—Reuters.

Doctor sued by 'test-tube baby' couple

New York, July 17.—Two weeks before the world's first test tube baby is due to be born in Britain, a couple went to court here seeking \$1.5m (£800,000) damages in a suit claiming a doctor deliberately destroyed their embryonic test tube baby in 1973. It threatens to turn into an ethical debate.

John and Doris del Zio, from Florida, alleged the doctor maliciously and arbitrarily opened the test tube containing their embryonic baby three days before the embryo was to have been implanted in Mrs del Zio's womb.

Dr Raymond Vande Wiele, formerly chief of obstetrics and gynaecology at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centre, said in a deposition filed with the court that he did destroy the embryo, because he felt the doctors in charge of the fertilization process lacked the experience, skill and expertise to produce a baby.—Reuters.

Cambodian leader accuses Hanoi of plans to expand

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, July 17

Mr Ieng Sary, the Cambodian Foreign Minister, today accused Vietnam of planning to expand itself over Southeast Asia "in order to serve the big power supporter."

He did not identify the big power but he was clearly referring to the Soviet Union.

"Vietnam sees that an independent Cambodia is a great obstacle to its ambition of being an empire in the region."

Mr Sary who spent most of his recent conference attacking Vietnam, said that Cambodia had won "a glorious victory over the Vietnamese enemy" at the beginning of this year.

After showing a film purporting to reveal Vietnamese aggression, Mr Sary said that the Vietnamese attack was not a border incident but a large-scale invasion.

Mr Sary dismissed as "propaganda" allegations that his Government had committed appalling atrocities.

Mr Sary mentioned only briefly his four days of discussion with the Thai Government.

Thai officials said Mr Sary had assured the Thai Prime Minister that the Cambodian forces near the Thai border had been ordered to refrain from aggressive acts.

He told Thai ministers that Cambodia was interested in joining the new year's Mekong river project involving Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, and agreed to establish diplomatic relations with Thailand.

Anthem mix-up gives Korchnoi first laugh

Baguio, Philippines, July 17.—Viktor Korchnoi burst out laughing today when a Philippine band played "The Internationale" instead of the Soviet national anthem at the opening ceremony of the world chess championship.

The mistake deprived Korchnoi, the challenger for the title, of a chance to snub his homeland, from which he had been expelled two years ago. He had planned to sit at the Soviet national anthem was played, his opponent, Anatoly Karpov, the world champion.

Minutes after the anthem incident, Korchnoi had a stroke of luck. He drew the right to start with the white pieces.

It was a psychological boost for Korchnoi, and gives him a chance to launch an early attack to get six wins and take a record first prize of \$350,000 (£185,000).

The challenger's anthem, announced by organizers as "Mr Korchnoi's selection," was a brief snatch from the choral movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. His side chose it because the text side chose it because the text now known as "Ode to Joy" was originally known as "Ode to Freedom."

In a sometimes bizarre ceremony, Korchnoi was sitting on his chair when the time came for the playing of the Soviet anthem.

His delegation leader, Mrs Petra Lesiewicz of Switzerland, joined the challenger in the sit-down protest before some 1,000 fans at the newly built Baguio convention centre.

The protest was all the more embarrassing for the match organizers because they were just a chair away from the main guest, President Marcos of the Philippines.

Then by some comic faux pas, the military band struck up "The Internationale."

A frantic Soviet functionary rushed up to the band afterwards and complained that they had played the wrong music. A band member said it was not their fault. They had merely played the musical score given them by the armed forces. The music sheet carried the title "USSR."

President Marcos told the gathering that the ancient game of chess had started in Asia and had now appropriately returned.—Reuters.

He was last seen in public only two weeks ago at a session of the Supreme Soviet, when he sat a few places away from President Brezhnev.

Last month he undertook a delicate mission to Belgrade to represent the Soviet Union at the Yugoslav party congress. On his return, he was awarded the Order of Hero of Socialist Labour. It was noteworthy that in the public citation a special phrase of praise was applied to him which was not applied to another Politburo member who also received the same award a few weeks later.

His death leaves a gap at the top of the Soviet hierarchy, and means that a candidate member will now be elected to full Politburo status.

It also draws attention to the aging structure of the Soviet Cabinet. Most of the members are over 70.

He will be buried at the Kremlin Wall, an honour accorded to members of the Politburo. Figures in this country. The announcement of his death was made in the name of all the ruling party and Government organs of the Soviet Union.

Mr Kukalov was one of the youngest of the 14-man Politburo. There had been no public speculation about his health, but a medical bulletin tonight said he died of acute cardiac insufficiency followed by sudden heart failure last night.

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Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of black nationalism in South Africa, is 60

Prayers said for Robben Island prisoner No 466/64

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, July 17

Tomorrow will be just another day for prisoner No. 466/64 on Robben Island—a day of repetition, prison routine, of dull prison food, another day of a sentence which will end only with death. But for many people in South Africa and other parts of the world it will be a day of remembrance for Mr Nelson Mandela, the colossus of African nationalism in South Africa.

Mr Mandela will be 60 tomorrow. Almost one third of his life has been spent behind bars, his speeches and writings have been banned, and the organization which he led, the African National Congress (ANC), proscribed.

But despite official attempts to obliterate his memory, he is still a figurehead for South African blacks who wish to liberate themselves from white domination. He is their leader.

Despite his years in prison he remains as much a symbol of black resistance and an inspiration for black hopes as he was when he was leading his campaign of defiance in the 1950s or when he went "underground" before his arrest in 1962.

He is probably the only black leader who has the respect and support not only of the militants in the black consciousness movement, but also of homeland leaders such as Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, of KwaZulu. As the slogan

pointed on a Soweto wall proclaims: "Mandela is with us still."

In Britain Mr Mandela's birthday is being commemorated with special meetings and speeches and the dispatch of 10,000 birthday cards, none of which will probably ever reach Robben Island. In South Africa, because of the political situation, the anniversary must be marked in a more subdued way, privately and with prayers.

In a small three-room house in Brando, in the Orange Free State, Mr Mandela's wife, Winnie, his two daughters and his baby grand-daughter, will observe a day of fasting and prayer. Their prayers, the younger daughter Zindi, says, will not be just for Mr Mandela but for all political prisoners in South Africa.

Mrs Mandela leads a life of lonely banishment in Brando where she was sent just over a year ago on the orders of Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Justice. Her only contact with her husband is through letters and the occasional visit to Robben Island.

Neither in his letters nor during his family visits is Mr Mandela allowed to discuss anything but family matters. Even references to "aunt Helen" (Mrs Helen Joseph, the first person to be banned in South Africa who is godmother to Mr Mandela's grand-daughter) are banned. But despite these restrictions, Mrs Mandela says, her husband remains in good spirits, inspired by the hope

that he will live to see black South Africans achieve their freedom.

The South African authorities are determined to ensure that he will not fulfil this ambition. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 and in South Africa there is no remission for political offences.

Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in Transkei, the son of a Tembu Chief and a kinsman of Chief Kaizer Matanzima, the Transkei Prime Minister. He was destined for chieftainship, but a rebellious spirit plus an early interest in student politics while he was at Fort Hare University made

him turn his back on his family's tribal background.

He went to Johannesburg where he first worked in the mines before being taken on (with the help of Mr Walter Sisulu, one of his fellow prisoners on Robben Island) by a firm of white lawyers. He studied law at the University of Witwatersrand and later set up his own legal partnership with Mr Oliver Tambo, the present head of the ANC in exile.

Mr Mandela joined the ANC in 1944 and helped to found its militant youth league. By 1952 he had become deputy national president of the ANC and led 8,500 people in the campaign of defiance. He was given a suspended sentence and was served with a banning order.

Four years later he was one of the principal defendants in the treason trial during which he helped to destroy the Government's case against the ANC. He was acquitted and shortly afterwards was elected leader of the National Action Council set up by the all-African Convention. He immediately went "underground" and directed a three-day nationwide strike in May, 1961.

In June of that year, he and other ANC leaders decided to set up Umkonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) to carry out acts of sabotage against public buildings.

A year after the founding of Umkonto, Mr Mandela was arrested and charged with inciting strikes and leaving the country without a permit. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment. While still in prison he was brought to court again in October, 1963, as chief accused in the Rivonia trial. The following year was sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotage.

Before being sentenced, Mandela made a remarkable four-hour and a half decision in court explaining the idea of African Nationalism, why ANC had found it necessary to resort to violence and reject state allegiances that the ANC was dominated by foreign and communists. It was a quiet and unassuming speech, perhaps more than any other act singled him out as the leader of black South Africans.

He concluded with a truly national one. It is a struggle for the African people, inspired by their own suffering and their own experience, a struggle for the right to live. "During my lifetime I am dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and achieve. But it needs to be an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

At 60 Mr Mandela is hoping that he will live to this ideal fulfilled.

His departure had come as a shock. He is expected to fly to Britain to join his wife, who is believed to be in Botswana for the birth of the first of her daughter, Jennifer. Kotze was due back in South Africa in a fortnight.

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Mr Nelson Mandela: Spirits undaunted by captivity

that he will live to see black South Africans achieve their freedom.

The South African authorities are determined to ensure that he will not fulfil this ambition. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 and in South Africa there is no remission for political offences.

Mr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in Transkei, the son of a Tembu Chief and a kinsman of Chief Kaizer Matanzima, the Transkei Prime Minister. He was destined for chieftainship, but a rebellious spirit plus an early interest in student politics while he was at Fort Hare University made

him turn his back on his family's tribal background.

He went to Johannesburg where he first worked in the mines before being taken on (with the help of Mr Walter Sisulu, one of his fellow prisoners on Robben Island) by a firm of white lawyers. He studied law at the University of Witwatersrand and later set up his own legal partnership with Mr Oliver Tambo, the present head of the ANC in exile.

Mr Mandela joined the ANC in 1944 and helped to found its militant youth league. By 1952 he had become deputy national president of the ANC and led 8,500 people in the campaign of defiance. He was given a suspended sentence and was served with a banning order.

Four years later he was one of the principal defendants in the treason trial during which he helped to destroy the Government's case against the ANC. He was acquitted and shortly afterwards was elected leader of the National Action Council set up by the all-African Convention. He immediately went "underground" and directed a three-day nationwide strike in May, 1961.

In June of that year, he and other ANC leaders decided to set up Umkonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) to carry out acts of sabotage against public buildings.

A year after the founding of Umkonto, Mr Mandela was arrested and charged with inciting strikes and leaving the country without a permit. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment. While still in prison he was brought to court again in October, 1963, as chief accused in the Rivonia trial. The following year was sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotage.

Before being sentenced, Mandela made a remarkable four-hour and a half decision in court explaining the idea of African Nationalism, why ANC had found it necessary to resort to violence and reject state allegiances that the ANC was dominated by foreign and communists. It was a quiet and unassuming speech, perhaps more than any other act singled him out as the leader of black South Africans.

He concluded with a truly national one. It is a struggle for the African people, inspired by their own suffering and their own experience, a struggle for the right to live. "During my lifetime I am dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and achieve. But it needs to be an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

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Banned clergyman on his way to Britain

From Gerald Shaw
Cape Town, July 17

The Rev Theo. Kotze, the banned South African churchman who has fled the country, is believed to be on his way to Britain by way of Botswana.

Mr Kotze, former Western Cape director of the Christian Institute, was banned on October 19 last by the South African Government when he took action against leaders of the Christian Institute, the Johannesburg newspaper, *The World*, its editor, Mr Percy Qoboza, and the editor of the East London *Daily Dispatch*, Mr Donald Woods, who had gone into voluntary exile in Britain after fleeing to Lesotho.

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1 Yachting

White writes the score for the latest Sonata

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SPORT
Football



White Hart Lane walkabout: for Ardiles (left) and Villa, a chance to meet their new teammates, Perryman and Pratt (right), as well as their new supporters.

Ardiles and Villa found they could not ignore a cry from the cradle

Norman De Mesquita, Argentine manager, has been told that he must not ignore a cry from the cradle. He has been told that he must not ignore a cry from the cradle. He has been told that he must not ignore a cry from the cradle.

land as the cradle of football. An opportunity to play here was too good to miss. Tottenham manager, the new season cannot come soon enough. Tottenham manager, the new season cannot come soon enough.

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Manchester City take a bid for Francis

Manchester City moved ahead in the bid for Francis. Manchester City moved ahead in the bid for Francis. Manchester City moved ahead in the bid for Francis.

Southampton do not deny their interest in Wilson

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Gallagher puts out former champion in first round

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First team gold medal goes to Poland's men

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Caernarvonshire led by Parry into semi-final

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Racing

Acamas to give us a French lesson

By Michael Seely

Acamas, price for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes shortened from 3-1 to 11-4 with William Hill yesterday. National prize in the stables and achievement in the field of racing's crown jewels from under our noses at Ascot on Saturday.

The records show that an outstanding three-year-old will beat the four-year-olds in the Diamond Stakes. But in their absence it is the elder generation that is the focus of attention.



Cockney Rebel wins the Tower Nursery Handicap at Leicester yesterday from Hughenden.

As Ascot Balmerino, the six-year-old, is sure to give a good account of himself, the younger effort looks the sparkle of his younger days.

A dramatic development about the riding arrangements for Ralph's race is that the jockey, Guy Harwood, has exercised his right to claim the jockey of the year, Greve, Starkey, for the American challenger, That's Nice.

Salina's trainer, Michael Stoute, continued on the winning trail when Dr Monty Solomon's Silly's Knight landed the odds-on 15-8 in the two-year-old in the Worswick Manor Stakes.

Ayr results

Res Time Band, b. c. by Polyfoto
1.00-1.05 ST QUODX STAKES
1.00-1.05 ST QUODX STAKES

Redcar programme

[Television (IBA): 2.30, 3.0, 3.30 and 4.0 races]
2.0 KILTON STAKES (2-y-o: £714: 6f)
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Leicester programme

6.45 SUTTON STAKES (2-y-o: £566: 6f)
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Hunter is to appeal over rulings at Ayr

An East Ayrshire trainer, Gavin Hunter, furious about two decisions by the Ayr stewards, is lodging appeals with the Jockey Club. His Timonel was disqualified from first place for accidental bumping and placed second in Saturday's Glen Sannox Stakes.

Results at Windsor

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Folkestone programme

1.45 ALAN KNOTT STAKES (3-y-o maidens: £1,089: 6f)
1.45 ALAN KNOTT STAKES (3-y-o maidens: £1,089: 6f)
1.45 ALAN KNOTT STAKES (3-y-o maidens: £1,089: 6f)

Ayr programme

2.30 BUTE HANDICAP (E809: 1m 3f)
2.30 BUTE HANDICAP (E809: 1m 3f)
2.30 BUTE HANDICAP (E809: 1m 3f)

Leicester selections

6.45 Spanish Philip, 7.10 Beaufort Street, 7.31 King of Darby, 8.5 Bad Love, 8.55 Ann Winnie, 9.5 Escape Mc Never.

Redcar selections

By Our Racing Staff
2.0 Voh, 2.30 Dese Song, 3.0 Chiparia, 3.30 Hand Made, 4.4 Walk Around, 4.43 Liebraumlich.

Folkestone selections

By Our Racing Staff
1.45 Gauguin, 2.15 Rely On Pearl, 2.45 Now Hear This, 3.15 Irish Noble, 3.45 Keysham, 4.15 Padfinger.

Ayr selections

By Our Racing Staff
2.30 Am Away-Too, 3.0 Pragmatic, 3.30 Clywd 4.0 Gaelic Affair, 4.30 Sweet and Lovely, 5.0 Trolley.

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HEARTS

Convincing solution to the four-hand problem

Shasby/McMahon
at the
at the
at the

ax Harrison
is good to see the present
extensive repertoire for
concerts beginning at the
time of 11.30 on Sunday
ing. All the items were for
hands at one keyboard, all
evocative of physical
movement, and Anne Shasby
Richard McMahon began
Schubert's fast, taut,
aggressive *Murche*
Quintette No 1, D 886, an
opener.

rainger's folksy "Let's
ce Gay in Green Meadows"
a considerable contrast,
e relaxed, and sensitively
ten for the medium; how-
it received a pointed and
performance. The *Valce*
Ravel's *Ma Mère l'Oye* is
overly sophisticated yet
played with great tender-
as it should be. Berners's
Bourgeoise, a acute
es of musical satire, offer-

eye Norman
John's Radio 3
in Chissell

ye Norman and Geoffrey
ons packed St John's yes-
for the last of the BBC's
ent series of Monday lunch-
recitals. As radio listeners
these programmes last
an hour. But Miss Nor-
was so rich and varied in
ant, so beautifully and
highly sung, that it was
as if any full-length
the voice itself was ravish-
Even allowing for flatter-
acoustics, the tone seemed
of sunshine, more seduc-
in its range of colour, than
ever recall. There were

ing a distinctly seedy view of
Old Vienna, in fact an almost
billion one in the case of the
third number, entitled
"Strauss, Strauss et Strauss".

Miss Shasby and Mr McMahon
played these with an emphasis
that was altogether apt. It is
sad that contemporary pop
music is self-caricaturing and
hence that send-ups of this kind
based on more recent idioms
are unlikely to be written.

Though Book 4 of Brahms's
Hungarian Dances finds him in
a relatively light mood, it pro-
vided easily the morning's
heaviest music. Problems of
balance, always considerable
with four hands at one piano,
here become acute, yet were
solved convincingly. Nearly all
these Brahms dances are in
minor keys, whereas in Reger's
Six Walzes, Op 22, there is a
parallel emphasis on the minor
mode. These charming pieces,
although in a style related to
that of Brahms, show Reger, an
allegedly heavy-weight com-
poser, at his most genial. They
deserved unearthing, and re-
ceived a beautifully urbane per-
formance. Finally three Slavonic
Dances by Dvorak ended the
concert with a burst of gaiety.

reminders of its opulence in
Haydn's *Arianna* a Naxos (and
how well Miss Norman equated
emotional drama and period
style here) and Beethoven's so-
called "Creation Hymn". Yet
it was the way she lightened it
in more confidential or spring-
like moods often achieving
miracles of breath-control, that
impressed even more, not least
in Schubert's "Meeres Stille".

This, like two of her three
Beethoven songs, exemplified an
inclination towards tempo that
from others might sound slow.
But taking her time is an essen-
tial part of Miss Norman's dis-
tinguished artistry, and we can
accept it. Certainly it detracted
not one whit from the grace,
charm, and humour of her clos-
ing group of Satie, all wholly
enchanting.

French and German artistic links in the 1920s

Paul Overy

The Paris-Berlin exhibition at
the Beaubourg Centre (until
November 6) is the best exhibi-
tion of its kind I have ever
seen. Its theme is the inter-
action between French and Ger-
man culture in the first three
decades of the century, but its
scope is far wider than that. It
is the most thorough survey of
German art, architecture and
design of the period to have
been shown outside Germany.

All departments of the Beau-
bourg have been involved in its
conception, and it includes
literature, the theatre, cinema
and music; but because the
visual arts can be most fully
displayed in an exhibition it is
these which are shown to their
best advantage. It is the sequel
to *Paris-New York*, seen last
year, and it will be followed
next year by *Paris-Moscow*.

Paris-New York began
strongly but petered out into a
somewhat depressing record of
American influence on postwar
French art. *Paris-Berlin* is
strong all the way through. It
begins with a superb room of
German Expressionist painting
by the Brücke group and ends
with another magnificent room
of paintings by Max Beckmann.
In between are rooms devoted
to *Der blaue Reiter*, Expres-
sionist architecture, Dada, Con-
structivism and the Bauhaus,
the New Objectivity and
Rationalist architecture and de-
sign of the Twenties. This is
brilliantly set in context with
documentary displays devoted to
the First World War, the
Spartakists, the Weimar Repub-
lic and the rise of Nazism. The
catalogue weighs two kilos and
a half, is nearly 600 pages long,
packed with information and re-
productions. It is excellent
value at 65 francs (just under
£8) and there is a useful news-
paper-like *Petit Journal* with
introductions to each section
translated into English and
German (five francs).

The exhibition demonstrates
the close relationship between
Expressionist painting and
Fauvism, between Robert De-
launay and the *Blaue Reiter*

group, French and German
Dada, and between Leger, Cor-
busier and the German archi-
tects and designers of the Twen-
ties, and traces links between
French and German writers with
a special section on L'Alcazar
Lorraine. But it is the revela-
tion of the extraordinary unity
in diversity of German visual
culture which is the greatest
achievement of this magnificent
exhibition.

Industrialism, war and revo-
lution were the underlying pre-
occupations of German artists
and designers during these
years. But in the Twenties there
was a tremendous attempt to
create standards appropriate
for a well-regulated industrial
society. That this was ultimately
doomed to failure we know,
but many of the achievements
from those years still stand—
literally. And it is possible to
see not only the seeds of much
which has gone so disastrously
wrong with postwar inter-
national architecture but also
much more satisfactory solu-
tions which are still working
today and which can be, and
have already begun to be,
models for a much more
human and humane approach
to architecture.

One of the most heartening
displays is a slide show of the
workers' housing designed in
Berlin between 1926 and 1933
when Martin Wagner was Ber-
lin City Architect. Most of
these *Siedlungen* survived the
war and are shown by slides
taken recently of the mainly
brick-built estates, brightly
painted, with well-grown gar-
dens and balconies dripping
with plants. The architects—
Bruno Taut, Hans Scharoun,
Hugo Häring and others—com-
bined relatively traditional
building methods with rational-
ized minimum standards which
nevertheless preserved the
human scale and enabled
people to retain their individ-
uality. Flats were rarely more
than five storeys, so that lifts
were unnecessary, and a large
proportion of these develop-
ments were two-storey terrace
houses. We are now realizing
that the ideas from Berlin
and the work of Ernst May in



George Grosz: *Akt (nu)*, 1919, and, right, Christian Schad: *Comte St Genois d'Anneaucourt*, 1927

Frankfurt are much better
models on which to base mass
housing today than the tower
blocks and slabs advocated by
Corbusier. (It must be said that
these can also be found in Ger-
man architectural thinking of
the Twenties, although few
were built.)

A few years earlier architects
had been indulging in unbuild-
able expressionist fantasies.
(This is one of the most fasci-
nating and least-known sections
of the exhibition.) Taut, for
instance, had been working on
ideas for all-glass architecture
and Alpine architecture, where
whole mountains were
capped with glass. The visionary
architecture of Hans Scharoun
and the biomorphic expression-
ist architecture of Hermann
Finsterlin can be seen in a
series of bravura watercolours.
What is remarkable is that so
many of these architects were
able to come up with such
sensible and sympathetic solu-
tions to the housing problems
of Berlin only a few years later.
We live in a time when young
architects are increasingly turn-
ing to architectural fantasy.
(An exhaustive collection of
these by contemporary Italian
architects can be seen under
the title *Utopia and the Crisis*

of *Anti-nature* at the present
Venice Biennale.) One hopes
that they may be able to turn
from fantasy to such rational
but imaginative solutions, given
the right circumstances. If they
do, then the work of these Ger-
man architects could serve as
ideal models.

Whereas today the retreat
into fantasy is the result of a
disenchantment with the com-
mercialization and brutalization
of architecture, in Germany in
the early Twenties it was the
result of the shortage of build-
ing materials after the war and
the desperate financial situa-
tion. The move from expression-
ism to rationalism can be seen
very clearly in the changes
which took place at the
Bauhaus, although the extreme
functionalist rationalism of
Hannes Meyer and Ludwig
Hilberthimer in the late
Twenties points depressingly
forward to postwar inter-
national modernism.

There is a large section
devoted to Constructivism.
(Here the traffic was Moscow-
Berlin, rather than Paris-
Berlin.) A good deal of this,
particularly the works of lesser-
known artists like Carl Buch-
heister, looks more dated than
the architecture. It was painters

such as Klee and Kandinsky,
working at the Bauhaus, who
were able to elaborate elements
drawn from Constructivism to
create a much richer and more
imaginative language of forms.
Oscar Schlemmer combined
ideas from Constructivism with
a deep respect for the human
body and its proportions to
create one of the most original
achievements of twentieth-
century German art.

One of the most disturbing
sections of the exhibition,
particularly as it is placed after
the sections devoted to archi-
tecture and Constructivism, is
that which displays the work of
the artists of the New Objec-
tivity like Otto Dix and
Christian Schad. After the
spiritualized utopianism of Con-
structivism, super-realist paint-
ings like Dix's *Hugo Ehrlich*
with *Dog* and Schad's startling
close-up of a surgical operation
come at one with an extra-
ordinary visual attack.

The savage satire of Grosz's
drawings and Heartfield's
photo-montage is well-known
and is well represented here.
But the exhibition shows the
richness of examples in these
mediums by lesser-known
artists. The combination of
photography with typography

for propaganda or publicity was
one of the major achievements
of German artists and
designers in the Twenties,
although here again the
influences were from Moscow
rather than Paris.

The exhibition stops at 1933,
and the final room is given
over to paintings by Max Beck-
mann. This is dominated by the
trilogy *Departure*, from the
Museum of Modern Art in New
York. This great allegory of
exile, violence and tyranny
marks the end of an era—an
era where, in Germany,
virtually all the issues that have
dominated the twentieth cen-
tury, political, social, moral and
artistic, were raised, passion-
ately debated and finally fought
over.

At the Grand Palais there is
a small exhibition, *De Renoir à
Matisse*, of French painting
drawn from Soviet collections
supplemented by others from
French museums. There are two
remarkable groups: one of
paintings of Tahitian subjects
by Gauguin, the other of
Cézanne, which complement
the exhibition of his last paint-
ings which is also at the Grand
Palais until July 23. (*De Renoir à
Matisse* continues to Septem-
ber 18.)

Fricker's expert new work for piano

Two new works by British com-
posers resident in America and
a realization of an unfinished
Schubert symphony brought a
stimulating diversity to the last
day of what has been in terms
of box office the most success-
ful Cheltenham Festival for
many years.

Peter Racine Fricker's *Anniv-
ersary*, a substantial one-
movement piece for piano (the
composer called it a *passacaglia-
chaconne*) owes its existence
partly to last year's Silver
Jubilee, but the anniversaries
more apparently celebrated are
personal to the composer, such
as his entry to the Royal Col-
lege of Music 40 years ago and,
since his first study there was
Brahms, the eightieth anniv-
ersary of that composer's death.
As *Anniversary* nears its climax,
Fricker blends his own motifs
with one from another pass-
acaglia, that at the end of
Brahms's Symphony No. 4.

It might be just an absorbing
intellectual exercise in the
hands of a less expert com-
poser. But Fricker plunges at
once into a richly contrasted
design of keyboard colours, and
moves so fluently from one ap-
proach to another in logical
succession, that the interest is
immediate and sustained.

In Iain Hamilton's *Cleopatra*,
a dramatic scene for soprano
and orchestra introduced by
Lois McDonald with the BBC
Symphony Orchestra under
David Atherton, the contrasts
are of a different kind and con-
cern the shifting emotions of the

Egyptian Queen after her deser-
tion from Antony. The tenderness
of remembered love, the bitter-
ness of betrayal, and the
hysteria of hope are vividly
written into a soprano line of
exacting virtuosity and frankly
operatic declamation: the com-
poser's own experience is
apparent. All the more surpris-
ing, therefore, that the balance
of the voice against the orches-
tral textures is sometimes mis-
judged. On its own, the orches-
tral writing is often beautiful,
with its exotic impressions of
eastern nights and gardens, but
for all Miss McDonald's heart-
felt commitment, not enough of
the text (the composer's own)
was clearly heard.

Brian Newbould's realization
of Schubert's incomplete Sym-
phony in E minor had its first
professional outing. Enough
existed in sketch form for New-
bould to fill out Schubert's pos-
sible intentions with evident
conscientious devotion, and to
make it clear that Schubert had
a work of considerable dimen-
sions in mind. In outlook it
stands closer to the last two
great symphonies than to its six
predecessors.

But what was heard also sug-
gested cogent reasons why it
was never finished. By the time
he returned to the sketches,
Schubert's gas had moved on,
and what he found no longer
represented the material
out of which the imagined
masterpiece could be quarried.

Kenneth Loveland

A Quiet Word BBC 2

Stanley Reynolds

About half way through *A
Quiet Word*, subtitled *Conver-
sations with Ulster Writers*, on
BBC 2 on Sunday, one realized
that they were very brave men.
Naturally, it must take a cer-
tain amount of courage for any-
one to go through the ordinary
day-to-dayness of life in Ulster.
To make poetry out of the
situation is an even braver feat.
At first, I had thought the
writers—Seamus Heaney,
Michael Longley, John Morrow,
Paul Muldoon, Frank Ormsby,
and James Simmons—were being
oddly super-cool about the
situation they lived in and
wrote about. Then, one
realized that the calm, low
profile, which dipped often
into downright shyness and
self-effacement, was the sign of
men who are quite used to dis-
playing grace under pressure.
I am sure the men did not
believe they were brave.
Seamus Heaney, a poet whose
work I have admired for a long
time, even joked about a poet's
luck, meaning his verses were
noticed because he was writing
from strife-torn Northern Ire-
land. Mr Heaney, however, was
noticed before the new troubles
started.

Produced by Derek Bailey, an

Ulsterman, and directed by
Rosemary Bowen-Jones, the
poet spoke not just from the
usual Ulster backcloth. Instead
of torn streets, and burning
cars, the viewers saw rather
beautiful scenery.

Moy, the town which Paul
Muldoon comes from, looked a
lovely place, built by some lord
after the fashion of an Italian
city. John Morrow was seen
reading a comic poem about
street fighting. He recited his
poem, which contained a dandy
line about the poet's "nose
for a 999 situation", in front of
a group of respectable middle-
aged people. The camera swung
in to pick up the tears of
laughter forming in the
woman's eyes. It was a rather
heartening sight. Mr Morrow,
a Protestant, deals in dark
comedy. Black humour, he said,
was a common bond which
joined the two warring Celtic
tribes.

Mr Heaney was perhaps the
most articulate. A Catholic, he
confessed to a feeling of exilia-
tion in 1969 when the lid
blew. At last, he said, things
were in the open. Now, how-
ever, he said, people were
simply exhausted. The poets
spoke rather disparagingly
about their art never solving
anything. Perhaps so.
But the mere act of faith in
continuing to live and write
poetry in Ulster is a triumph of
some sort, and this combination
of wit and courage the pro-
gramme brought over very well.

Autumn at Bristol Old Vic

The Bristol Old Vic's autumn
season opens on August 30 with
Chekhov's *The Seagull*, with
Richard Pasco. It will be fol-
lowed by Shakespeare's *As You
Like It*. Middleton's *The
Changeling* (which is becoming
one of this season's most popu-
lar plays) and the comedy *The*

Man Who Came to Dinner, by
Kaufmann and Hart.
In the New Vic there will be
productions of David Mamet's
Sexual Perversity in Chicago,
Edward Albee's *Counting the
Ways*, *The Insect Play*, by the
brothers Caryl and David Rud-
kin's *Ashe*, Productions in the
Little Theatre include Robert
Bolt's *A Man for All Seasons*,
Joe Orton's *Loot* and Alan
Ayckbourn's *Relatively Speak-*

National Gallery Canaletto Appeal

The Trustees of the National Gallery wish to record, with pride and pleasure, the success of their Appeal launched on 5th June to retain in this country for Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery the view of Warwick Castle from the courtyard by Canaletto. The sum required by 11th July amounted to £77,500, the remainder having already been raised by the Birmingham authorities.

Contributions from the public during the course of only one month amounted to a total of £66,500. This sum includes two substantial donations of £14,000 and of £8,000, as well as the £30,000 so magnificently donated by Dr. D. M. McDonald in response to the Gallery's plea. The Trustees are grateful that the success of the Gallery's efforts was acknowledged by the Government's last-minute agreement to provide the outstanding balance, which amounts to £11,000. As it is not possible to thank individually the more than 50,000 visitors to the National Gallery who contributed to the Appeal, the Trustees wish to record gratefully their appreciation of these generous donations, and also of the many postal contributions, from abroad as well as from this country. Below is printed a list of donors of £100 and over.

The combination of all these efforts, initiated at Birmingham, has ensured that Canaletto's Warwick Castle: the East Front from the Courtyard will remain for ever in a public collection in Britain.

Thomas Agnew & Sons, Ltd. (through the NACF)	£1,000	The Heim Gallery	£1,000
Anonymous	14,000	Sir Antony Hornby	100
Anonymous	8,000	Richard Kingzett, Esq.	100
Anonymous	500	Miss M. J. Lay	300
Anonymous	200	Dr. D. M. McDonald	
Anonymous	100	& M. McDonald (through the NACF)	30,000
Anonymous	100	Marlborough Fine Art Ltd.	500
Artemis Fine Arts (UK) Ltd.	500	The Medici Society, Ltd.	100
Central & Sheerwood, Ltd.	250	Roy Miles Fine Paintings	100
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		Thames & Hudson Ltd.	500
		Miss H. Ursula Williams	100

Do you have a head like this?



The owner who brought this head to Sotheby's in a box with numerous other small items had no idea of its value.

Sotheby's identified it as an ancient Egyptian head. Made of red glass paste, it was included in our sale of Antiquities on 3rd July, 1978, and realised £30,000.

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ISRAEL'S CONFUSED POSITION

Israel has managed to arrive at the talks which open at Leeds Castle today in an almost unbelievably awkward diplomatic posture. Mr. Dayan, who represents Israel at the talks, and Mr. Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, have allowed themselves to be manoeuvred into a position where their personal amour-propre, or at least the dignity of their respective offices, seems to have become more important to them than the actual resumption of meaningful negotiations with Egypt.

They have thus fallen into a trap carefully laid for them by President Sadat. It is a secret that Mr. Sadat is thoroughly disappointed with Mr. Begin's response to his peace initiative, and wishes to isolate him as far as possible both from the United States and within Israel. As far as the United States Administration is concerned he has succeeded by the time Mr. Begin went to Washington last March. He has not done badly in Congress either (as was shown when he Israeli lobby found itself unable to block the Saudi arms deal), and even within the American Jewish community there has been an unprecedented questioning of the wisdom of Israel's present leadership.

To undermine Mr. Begin's authority in Israel itself is clearly more difficult proposition. But Mr. Sadat has made considerable inroads even there, by cultivating both the leader of the official opposition, Mr. Peres, and the senior figure within the cabinet who has done most to publicize his disagreement with Mr. Begin line—the Defence Minister, Mr. Ezer Weizman. He could not, however, have succeeded as far as he has were it not for Mr. Dayan's intense jealousy of anyone who appears to be usurping his role as foreign minister and Mr. Begin's own gradually slackening grip on his Cabinet.

Thus when President Sadat, apparently on the advice of Herr Brandt and Dr. Kreisky, invited Mr. Peres to meet him in Vienna the weekend before last, Mr. Begin first gave his consent and then after furious protests from Mr. Dayan, tried to revoke it at the last minute—only to be held by the Labour Party, he was too late. When Mr. Peres in turn transmitted an invitation to Mr. Weizman (ostensibly to meet his Egyptian opposite number, General Gamasy), Mr. Begin again consented, only to take umbrage when Mr. Weizman came back with a new set of proposals from Mr. Sadat himself. Sunday's Cabinet meeting spent the whole of its time discussing whether or not Mr. Weizman had acted with propriety and ended by establishing a rule that in future ministers should have contracts only with their exact opposite numbers in foreign countries.

That is in itself an absurd rule, and indeed scarcely applicable in practice. If Mr. Weizman were having talks with General Gamasy, would he be expected to walk out because President Sadat came into the room? Clearly what matters is that all ministers should accurately state the Government's agreed position. It has not yet been suggested that Mr. Weizman did anything else. But Mr. Dayan will not be able to do it at Leeds Castle today, at least as far as Mr. Sadat's new proposals are concerned, because the Israeli Cabinet did not get round to discussing them and will not

A SENSIBLE SETTLEMENT FOR THE POLICE

Lord Edmund-Davies has done well by the police. He has gone back to the generous award of the 1960 Royal Commission and recommended increases intended to bring pay roughly back into similar relationship with average earnings—well above the relative level that has existed for most of the past ten years. He has given much weight to the often exaggerated alarms about recruitment and the more substantial (but still not dramatic) evidence about wastage among senior officers. But he has rightly rejected the demand of the police Federation to have the police authorities excluded on the determination of pay, and also very forthrightly, the entry in favour of a right for a police to strike.

The award is to be split into instalments, as Lord Edmund-Davies clearly expected. The Government, could, indeed, have read it over three years rather than two without breach of faith. There is courage in the decision award some officers 45 per cent over the next two September, while most workers are to receive themselves, if the Government's hopes are fulfilled, something closer to 5 per cent than 10 next year. The policemen's instalments are

Referendum in Guyana

on the High Commissioner of Guyana.

I have read two articles in *The Times* of July 12 last which attempt to make a comment on the significance of the referendum held in Guyana on July 10. The first article, which is the more important, is in the opinion of this letter is to update your information on the results of that exercise and also to draw some facts to your attention in the hope that they will lead to some balance and objectivity in your interpretation of the event of July 10.

The official result, as announced July 12 by the Speaker of the National Assembly, showed a 70.7 per cent of 419,936 voters, of whom 97.4 per cent voted in favour of the Bill to amend the constitution by a two-thirds majority in Parliament. Clearly the result of the referendum was not only five days before the 10th, but also some effect on the vote, as did the active role of only opposition group with any following, the People's Progressive Party, in attempting to intimidate voters of East Indian descent whom they feared were supporters of the People's National Congress.

The claim of the opposition that the referendum was successful to the extent that only 10 per cent of voters turned out to vote is as ridiculous as their traditional cry of 1957, that they have been cheated at every election including the 10th, and that they would mean a 10 per cent vote would mean an average of 48 per cent of the 1,170 polling places in Guyana, a nonsense which even the PNC cannot sustain. In District 29, led by Hooper, when the PPP claimed that they had agents at each of the 20 polling places, the turnout was 70.5 per cent. Were their agents involved in the alleged practice?

What concerns me more are some of the premises of your analysis of Guyanese politics. You need, I think, to understand that Prime Minister Forbes Burnham won the 4th election on a platform of endorsement for all the internal strife which led to more than deaths and thousands of

injuries among both black and East Indian Guyanese. Since then such violence has ended and East Indian support for the PNC has been growing, with the significant inclusion of a number of the former leaders of the PPP. Jagan accuses these leaders of being sell-outs, and continues to pretend that his party has the undivided loyalty of East Indians in Guyana.

I am perturbed that a newspaper as prestigious as *The Times* should succumb to the temptation of the simplistic premise that Guyanese politics is informed by racial polarization. The PNC is not a racial party and much of the opposition to the Bill emanated from elements with vested socio-economic interests. I leave it to you to determine whether the explanation for the PPP which purports to be a socialist party entering into an alliance with some business and professional groups could be found in race.

You need also to understand that the purpose of adopting this parliamentary process of change is to create an interim mechanism, the Constituent Assembly, whereby the people of Guyana can, for the first time ever, participate directly in the formulation of the Constitution. When the exercise is concluded, in 15 months, the Parliament's ability to change entrenched clauses of the Constitution by two-thirds majority lapses, and referenda will once more be required for changes in the new entrenched clauses. If the proposal of the PNC are accepted, to hold a possible 16 referenda, which would have been necessary under the old requirement, in order to change the Constitution comprehensively is an untidy arrangement.

The Government and the Party are committed to retaining in the new Constitution all the fundamental human rights and freedoms contained in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, as well as in the 1966 British fashioned Independence Constitution. To these rights and freedoms the Government is seeking the addition of others, such as the right to free education, employment and ownership of land to the farmer who tills it rather than to exploitative landlords. It is those who stand to lose their privileged positions who are peddling the false accusation that the PNC is bent on establishing a

one-party state and perpetrating violence. In power, an accusation which the party has consistently denied. In any event, if it were the intention of the party to establish a one-party state, it was not necessary for it to propose the adoption of a new Constitution since the article in the present Constitution regarding political parties is not an entrenched provision but one that requires a two-thirds majority. The attempt in your article to compare the situation in Guyana with that in Bolivia is therefore picaresque and unworthy of comment.

You named the Guyana Council of Churches as having warned against the referendum. This group is a central organization representing some 100 churches of all the Christian churches in Guyana. It does not consult with its congregations before making declarations, nor are its decisions binding on the masses of the Christian community, who support the PNC. Moreover, not only did some of the members of the Council dissociate themselves from the stand of the Council, but the majority of the congregations have openly supported the Government, as did a number of Hindu and Muslim religious bodies.

But articles are deafeningly silent on the position of the Trades Union Congress. This organization which has 23 affiliated unions and represents more than 65,000 workers, decided by a 104-47 majority at a specially convened meeting, to support the Bill and the referendum. It was after this event that the Opposition called for a boycott, and, as the *Jamaica Gleaner* commented, effectively conceded victory to the Government.

I trust that these facts will demonstrate that the political situation in Guyana is much more complex than may appear to you. Guyanese voted in favour of the Constitution Amendment Bill because they were satisfied of Mr. Burnham's sincerity and basic commitment to improving the welfare of the masses of the people, without regard to considerations of race, religion and political affiliation. Yours faithfully,

C. H. GRANT, High Commissioner, Guyana High Commission, 3 Palace Court, Bayswater Road, W2.

Cutting the Budget deficit

From Mr M. V. Posner

Sir, I have been on holiday, and have only just seen your editorial of July 3, together with letters from Wynne Godley (July 10) and Tim Congdon (July 15). Since I was active in arguing against your views in 1976 (albeit in a way you described at the time as "reasonable"), it seems right to offer some assessment of the discussion as it now stands.

You asked in 1976 for substantial cuts in the Budget deficit—around 15 billion—and now claim that the Government delivered about two thirds or three quarters of what you had demanded. Your analysis of events since then lead you to recommend further action, even though the budgetary stance in real terms is now more severe than in 1976. Mr Congdon says you are right to claim good results from your past policy prescriptions; Mr Godley denies this, and argues that very bad results would inevitably flow from what you now recommend.

I must start with a concession. I certainly implied in 1976 that the budgetary stance of the Government was sound, but I was seriously weakened if your public expenditure cuts were put into effect. Well, we have had cuts nearly as large, and the state stands fairly intact. Of course, the important cuts come later, in the form of cuts in public services, very little indeed was announced or decided in December 1976, even though what was done was sufficient to earn the desired seal of approval from the IMF: not going to reward Israeli prevarication by making further concessions in public. He is clearly ready to negotiate a timetable of Israeli withdrawal as the various safeguards are slotted into place, and one suspects that he might also be prepared to negotiate "adjustments" of the actual frontier on the West Bank if discussions ever get that far. But he can hardly be expected to do so while Mr Begin is refusing to discuss any withdrawal on the West Bank at all.

But yesterday's statement by the Egyptian Government ruling out any concession "on land or sovereignty" suggests that, whatever he told Herr Brandt and Dr. Kreisky themselves, Mr Sadat is not going to reward Israeli prevarication by making further concessions in public. He is clearly ready to negotiate a timetable of Israeli withdrawal as the various safeguards are slotted into place, and one suspects that he might also be prepared to negotiate "adjustments" of the actual frontier on the West Bank if discussions ever get that far. But he can hardly be expected to do so while Mr Begin is refusing to discuss any withdrawal on the West Bank at all.

State Board salaries

From Mr D. M. Clement

Sir, In the light of the difficulties experienced by the Government in dealing with the recommendations of the successive Boyle reports on the salaries of members of nationalized industry boards in particular, I would like to suggest a course of action which might also have other important benefits.

First, the Board of each nationalized industry should be invited by the responsible minister to set up an audit committee comprising the part-time members of the industry where such a committee does not exist at present—to undertake the usual duties of such a body and to report thereon in each annual report.

Secondly, when the committee has been established, and its terms of reference defined, the minister should then delegate to the audit committee, the responsibility to review annually the salaries of board members with functional responsibilities, in association with the chairman and deputy chairman of the Board, in the light of the personal contribution of the individual members, the salary levels obtaining in other of the comparable nationalized industries, the larger private sector companies and the periodic reports of the top salary review body.

Libels after death

From Mr W. Dudley White

Sir, The suggestion made by Mrs Gwyneth Hughes, MP, that families of deceased persons should be able to invoke the law of libel for up to 50 years after death, is one which does her credit, as the daughter of a distinguished man. It is a suggestion which is worthy of honourable consideration and sympathy, it must be pointed out that such a proposal, if embodied in law, would place a serious obstacle in the way of biographers and historians.

No published work could safely be issued unless all references to, and anecdotes about, persons alive within the previous half century had been approved by the families of those concerned and vetted by their legal advisers. Apart from the time

The Heathrow tube

From Lady Burton of Coventry

Sir, I was interested in the letter from Lady Aberdeen (June 27) and rather puzzled. Indeed a fellow member in the House said that surely she had taken the wrong train. But I have always been under the impression—as obviously was Lady Aberdeen—that one could not take a wrong train from Heathrow to Central London. And surely no traveller can do more than take the train indicated by the first train, to Central London.

So what is the explanation? Do passengers have to change at Hammersmith and is no account taken of luggage problems? I agree with your correspondent about the image presented to tourists and some time ago I did raise this with Sir Henry Marking as Chairman of the British Tourist Authority.

Still puzzling over these points I must say that the letter from Mr Robbins (July 4) did nothing to clear my mind. I was glad that he regretted the inconvenience caused to Lady Aberdeen and her fellow sufferers but does this happen rarely, occasionally, frequently,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Boycotting the Moscow Olympics

From Mr B. S. Hyman

Sir, The well meaning suggestion by your correspondent (July 12) regarding a boycott of the Olympic Games in the Soviet Union could, if it is important to establish quickly, be counterproductive. The reasons are clear.

For some while now, as a small concession to détente, the Russians have allowed visiting tourists to call upon Soviet citizens with comparative freedom. I am only one of many people who have made contact with Russians in their homes, Vladimir Slepak was one of several people I visited in April of this year. He has now been exiled, probably to a venue far beyond the reach of outside contact, which the Russians mischievously believe, will break his indomitable will. Thousands more remain in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Kharkov, Tashkent and numerous other cities for whom the need to retain a contact still exists, more strongly than before.

A boycott campaign may well diminish if not negate all efforts at continued visiting, which is an acknowledged and vital lifeline for so many Russian families. It will, in addition, alienate most of the sporting fraternity, whose single mindedness is not simple minded, devotion to winning medals outweighs most other moral considerations. If anyone doubts that, let them then recall the indecent haste with which the Munich Olympics were continued after the inconceivable of the bestial murder of the Israeli athletes.

One has also to concede that a boycott of South Africa in the sporting sphere, however morally defensible, did not prevent Soweto.

No, the approach is clear. Shearansky and Ginsberg will not be deterred by reducing contact. The occasion of the Olympics must be used to the best advantage. The Russians, of course, will wish to use it to bring credit to their régime. (The parallel with the Hitler Olympics of 1936 is glaring.) Yet, let them, instead, there is as good as no chance of stopping them. The large increase in visitors can be used to double and treble the visits to besieged families, stepping up the contacts by ordinary people and, indeed, even perhaps stimulating a new awareness of the oppression of the body and the mind still taking place, under which the waving of a banner from a balcony passes for "malicious hooliganism" bringing with it years of exile from one's home and family.

Yours faithfully,

BARRY S. HYMAN, 4 Priory View, Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, July 13.

Philharmonia Orchestra

From Mr Gavin Henderson

Sir, Martin Huckerby's Arts Diary entry on July 13 regarding "Orchestras and managers in discord" requires correction. He states that I resigned as general manager of the Philharmonia partly because of pressures "made more difficult because he has no vote on the council". In fact an entirely unprompted suggestion had been made from within the council of management that I should join the board—a suggestion made before I had given any indication of my wish to leave the orchestra in order to develop my interests in other branches of music and the arts in general. Mr Huckerby also reports that there are moves among the players to retain me as a consultant, but that this is being resisted by the council: it is in fact the council which has invited me to submit proposals for a continued relationship which might be considered alongside several alternatives regarding the

Saving a museum interior

From Mr Cecil Gould

Sir, The caption—"Saving a museum interior"—to Professor D. Donagan's letter (*The Times*, July 15) hints at a more general problem. As soon as it becomes a question of "saving" a museum interior a crossroads has been reached: which is the more important—the exhibit or the setting? This will always happen at the point when developments in the technique of display become incompatible with the architecture, involving the logical course then is to do what has recently been exemplified both in Paris and London—to replace the interior, leaving the structure and original decorative features of individual rooms intact, even if temporarily obscured.

Yours,

CECIL GOULD, 6 Palace Gate, W8.

Jogging diplomats

From Mr Michael C. Carter

Sir, David Bonavia observes (*China Diary* July 12) that jogging members of the foreign diplomatic community in Peking are a source of curiosity to the natives. At 7 am on a recent Saturday I saw (and perhaps they were operating on the principle of "When in Rome...") four joggers who were obviously from the Chinese Embassy in Portland Place.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL C. CARTER, 68 Wimpole Street, W1.

Boycotting the Moscow Olympics

From Mr Eric Ambrose

Sir, I was a member of a small, apolitical committee chaired by the equally youthful Edward Warner who as Sir Edward has had more success with Flexborough and Wind-suck. Our aim was to persuade athletes to boycott Hitler's Olympic Games.

Those who answered our letters castigated us for confusing sport with politics and I have often wondered whether Harold Abrahams later regretted the forcefulness of his objections.

The same situation has arisen today and already there has been one incident connected with the Moscow Games which indicates political pressure will be exerted by the host nation.

The Government is correct in stating this is a matter of individual conscience but will the young men and women of today succeed where we failed?

With courage their consciences could save the Games, for the Russians, unlike Hitler, count the cost of world approval.

It needs only one country to give a lead.

Yours faithfully,

ERIC AMBROSE, Maccab, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, NW7, July 14.

From Mr J. Pridoux

Sir, I am sure that Baron Pierre de Coubertin, when he refounded the Olympic Games, did not expect the Games to be a forum for showing political disapproval, indeed the Games were refounded due to Baron de Coubertin's deep and convinced belief that international sport could go a long way towards the harmonization of relations between countries.

I would suggest that Dr Rhodes Boyson and Torquil and Anne Norman (Letters, July 12) are making an irresponsible suggestion to suggest that Western democratic nations should boycott the Olympic Games.

Let us not sink to the level of those African nations who boycotted the Montreal Games in 1976 over the New Zealand affair. Let us so-called "responsible" nations retain some semblance of dignity.

I am, Sir, your faithfully servant,

JOHN PRIDOUX, Canford Magna, Wimborne, Dorset, July 12.

Tottenham Herons

From Air Commodore G. A. White, RAF

Sir, I know little about the marauding tactics of Herons and less about their self protective instincts of Goldfish but, as one of the men at the MOD responsible for defence against aerial attack I feel some obligation to respond to Mr Norman Atkinson's *de corac* about the threat to Tottenham's fish ponds (July 14).

Air defence has two complementary facets. The first, active air defence, involves nobbling the threat in the air before it can do damage to its intended target(s). The second is passive protection in a variety of forms. Active anti-Heron defences (Falcons? Guns? Bolas?) are probably impractical in Tottenham and would, in any case, bring the defenders into conflict with the law. Passive protection in the form of hardened shelters in the vulnerable ponds, would seem to offer the best solution.

Yours faithfully,

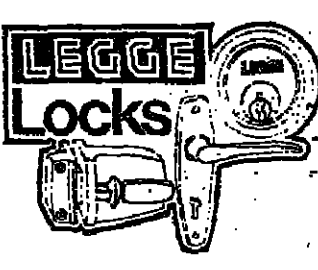
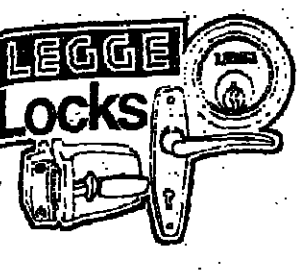
G. A. WHITE, Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall, SW1.

From Mr E. S. Verrall

Sir, Mr M. Atkinson (Letter, July 14) should be reminded that herons are indigenous to Tottenham. Goldfish being an introduced species, must take their chance.

Yours faithfully,

E. S. VERRALL, Chequer Cottage, Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst.



THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Strong growth in retail sales, but signals point to slowdown

Melvin Westlake

High street sales are still expanding quite strongly as the recovery in real earnings among much of the labour force goes on.

Government figures published yesterday show that retail sales in June rose again in volume terms.

In the first half of this year retail sales were 31 per cent above the average of 1977, helping significantly to fuel the growth in the economy.

Yet, although this upturn seems set to last at least until autumn, there are clear indications that the expansion in the economy will not be sustained much beyond that.

Separate figures compiled by the retail trade association point to a marked cyclical downturn next year. This is suggested by the fact that the "cyclical" indicators for the United Kingdom economy.

Future trends are identified in a group of "leading indicators", which broadly predict the behaviour of the economy one year ahead, and shorter leading indicators at predict events six months ahead.

The "longer leading indicators", which include interest rates, housing starts, share price movements, and the financial position of companies, have now fallen for eight consecutive months. These indicators now stand 11 points below last October's level, although not all the information available for the most recent months.

By contrast, the "shorter leading indicators", which include car registrations, bank profits, company profits, new order extended, and output of goods, continue strongly upwards. They have now risen more than 10 points since last autumn.

The medium-term picture of the economy from these indicators must be worrying for economic ministers as another period of recession would seem to be appearing on the horizon. A further boost to the economy later this year is likely to keep it at bay.

In the short-term, however, the boom is likely to be underpinned by the further tax rebates in the pipeline and the current rise in earnings, which is exceeding the rate of price inflation.

The introduction in the last Budget, of a reduced, 25 per cent, tax band is now being felt, and this calculated to raise the money in workers' pay packets by £130 a week.

Rebates of some £20 are already likely to have been received by some weekly-paid employees, while monthly-paid employees should receive their rebate at the end of this month. Such payments came too late to influence spending in June.

But the official index of volume sales rose last month to 109.0, according to yesterday's provisional calculations. This is up from 108.4 in May and 106.7 in April (based on 1971 = 100, and adjusted for seasonal variations).

So far this year the growth in retail business has been almost consistently upwards, and it has now reached its highest level since early 1975.

Indeed, during the past three months, sales have been increasing at an annual rate of nearly 7 per cent, compared with the previous three months.

Spending on consumer durables has also been particularly marked, with new car registrations up sharply. Many forecasters, including the Treasury, expect consumer spending this year to rise some 5 per cent above the average of last year.

As retail sales account for about half of all consumer spending, they provide a reasonable clue to whether private individuals are taking the opportunity presented by their rising incomes to increase their purchases.

If retail sales are to show an overall rise of 5 per cent this year compared with 1977, the index of retail business will have to average 110.0 in the final six months of 1978, against just over 107.0 on average during the first six months.

Tables, page 20

Most important commitment is to bring American price of oil into line with world average by 1980

Carter assurance on energy policy satisfies Summit

From Caroline Atkinson
Bonn, July 17

President Carter's commitment to have a comprehensive framework for energy policy in place by the end of this year has satisfied the other six countries at the Bonn summit despite considerable doubts about whether he will be able to fulfil his promise.

The most important step is on the price of oil in the United States. At present it is well below the world average, and the President is quoted in the communiqué as saying that the "United States remains determined that the prices paid for oil in the United States shall be raised to the world level by 1980."

The aim of the energy policy is to cut the dependence of the United States on imported oil. By the end of 1978 measures will be in effect that will cut oil imports by about 2.5 million barrels a day by 1985.

Other commitments are that the United States will establish a strategic oil reserve of 1,000 million barrels; that it will increase coal production by two thirds; maintain the ratio of oil consumption to economic growth at or below 0.8; and make sure that oil consumption grows less than overall energy use. Oil imports should be less than in 1977.

An American move on energy policy was seen as a prerequisite for the success of the summit. It was expected to be the American contribution to the bargaining between the heads of state which, in particular, would persuade the Germans to take action to expand their economy and the Japanese to reduce their huge trade surplus.

Mr Carter apparently went to great trouble to explain to the other summit participants the difficulties which he has had in getting Congressional approval for his energy policy. He described the present state of progress on his Energy Bill in Congress and reaffirmed that he still hoped to get the fifth part of the Bill passed by Congress eventually and would continue to press for this.

This part of the Bill deals with the price of oil, and proposes a well head of crude oil to raise the domestic price to the world level. There is generally admitted to be no chance of Congress approving this part of the Bill in the present session.

The implication of President Carter's commitment here is that he will take executive action to push up United States oil prices if Congress refuses to enact the fifth part of the Bill.

This could be in the form of an import tax or import quotas which would then be auctioned. Another possible move would be to allow exports of Alaskan oil to Japan, at present this oil goes to the Californian coast where there is now a glut of oil which has had the effect of lowering the domestic price. If the Alaskan oil went to Japan it would both improve America's trade balance with Japan and tend to push up the price of oil in California.

However, many observers believe that the threat of Administrative action to curb oil imports will annoy Congress. This might delay the passage of the other four parts of the Bill or provoke Congress into voting to limit Presidential action. The Senate has already passed a measure which would prevent the President from imposing an import tax on oil.

The other six countries are concerned about the American appetite for oil largely because they believe that it has been the main cause of the fall of the dollar on the foreign exchange markets.

The target of reducing oil imports by about 2.5 million barrels a day by 1985 was implied in the Energy Bill. The first four parts of the Bill have been approved by conference committees in Congress.

The first three are expected to be enacted without difficulty in the present Congressional session and the fourth part should also be passed after some further debate. The President apparently had a sympathetic hearing from the other six leaders when he outlined his problems in limiting oil imports and American energy consumption. He pointed out that the amount of oil consumed in relation to gross domestic product had fallen already by 8 per cent.

Declining dollar: Although the fall of the dollar has been one of the biggest worries of the Europeans and Japanese there does not seem to have been much discussion on new mechanisms for stabilising the currency on the exchanges.

The American view, that the fundamental problems leading to trade imbalance have to be tackled before exchange rate stability can be achieved, was won the day. The main plus for the dollar from Bonn is that President Carter has said that the United States will reduce its dependence on imported oil. It remains to be seen whether this pledge, together with the commitment on growth by Germany and the reduction of its



Breakfast meeting at the Bonn summit yesterday. Left to right: Mr James Callaghan, the Prime Minister, M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the French President, Mr Jimmy Carter, the American President, and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor.

Brokers reminded of the rules for London foreign exchange dealings

By Christopher Wilkins

Fears that standards of dealing in the London foreign exchange markets have been slipping have led the markets monitoring body to send a letter to all the main banks and brokers urging them to ensure that proper practices are upheld.

The letter has gone out in the form of a report from the joint standing committee representing the banks and the Foreign Exchange and Currency Dealers' Association.

It focuses particularly upon apparent breaches of the rule forbidding the by-passing of brokers in London foreign exchange dealing, and also upon breaches of the accepted standards of confidentiality.

The committee has reminded market operators that, under the terms of the letter sent to all authorized banks by Lord O'Brien in 1975 setting out basic standards of conduct, direct dealings in foreign exchange between London banks is prohibited. The committee said that it believed a limited amount of direct dealing may have been taking place.

This issue has become a particularly sensitive one because of charges that the staff of the New York market, where Citibank has caused some concern by introducing a system of direct dealing.

Bank of America has also broken new ground by announcing it will accept a service from overseas brokers in New York and will deal with

overseas names through resident American brokers.

Dealers in London have also been authorized to use the services of members of the FEDBA in the currency deposit market, they must not deal through brokers which are not members of the association.

The committee goes on to say it is concerned that the high degree of confidentiality required in the market is not always fully being observed. Banks are not supposed to ask brokers who the counterparty to a deal will be, before the transaction is concluded.

But there has been some evidence of individual brokers being pressed into giving this information under the threat of losing business. Some Japanese and Spanish banks are believed to have been involved.

The Bank defers recall of £440m in special deposits to help liquidity

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The Bank of England yesterday took action to head off possible upward pressure on interest rates by announcing that it is to defer the recall of some £440m of Special Deposits from the banking system from July 24 to September 11.

The action has been taken by the Bank in the expectation that the recall of 1 per cent Special Deposits, originally due next Monday, could seriously aggravate an already tight liquidity situation in the short term money markets.

The discount market has substantially been short of funds for a number of days now and has had to rely on massive official intervention to relieve the

shortage. Yesterday, short-term rates were also creeping up in the interbank market, with overnight money trading in the 20-25 per cent range towards the close.

What is more, the market is expected to become even tighter later this week, as substantial VAT and Advance Corporation Tax on dividends fall due. So, had the banks also had to find funds to restore their special deposits at the Bank of England from 2 to 3 per cent of their eligible liabilities—and some banks may still be finding their reserve asset position extremely tight—there was serious possibility of temporary upward pressure on some interest rates, a development that the authorities consider unnecessary.

The decision to defer the recall of special deposits was widely welcomed yesterday, albeit that markets are well aware that the Bank's action represents no more than a deferral. The ultimate repayment of special deposits will, however, now take place in what should be decidedly easier monetary conditions in early September.

Originally the release of special deposits came as part of the June monetary package. The total release was 11 per cent and the first repayment of 1 per cent was made on July 3. The action by the authorities in deferring total repayment is not unprecedented. It also took place in the winter of 1976/77.

Financial Editor, page 19

Dividend controls Bill planned

Fred Emery
Political Editor

The Government is planning to introduce a Bill in the month to extend dividend controls which would otherwise expire this year.

The final decision to introduce it will depend on the Government's securing support from the Liberals.

This in turn is contingent on the Liberals being satisfied that the Government's use of four pay policy is sufficient.

Both decisions are being delayed until the Government has decided whether to publish its White Paper on pay policy which could come as early as next Friday.

The two issues are inextricably linked because ministers have decided that if the unions are to be asked to agree to pay limitation, then companies can simply be taken on trust in a matter of dividends.

Up to yesterday Mr David the Liberal leader, had been plying to any government undertakings, but without success in contact with the time Minister on his return on the Bonn summit.

Most Liberals are opposed to dividend controls, but in the interests of continuing the operation of the still continuing in-lab pact—they seem virtually certain to give the Government support for quick passage of the Bill right at the end of the session.

First Boston Corporation exchanges shares with Crédit Suisse White Weld

By Our Financial Staff

Crédit Suisse White Weld and First Boston Corporation, leading investment banks respectively in London and New York, are to take key share stakes in each other.

The deal, which has wide-spread implications for the operations of both banks in the Eurocurrency and domestic American markets, ends speculation about what would happen to the 31 per cent interest in CSWW's holding company formerly owned by White Weld.

That holding was bought recently by Crédit Suisse, which already had 46 per cent of CSWW, when White Weld was taken over by Merrill Lynch, but it was always intended the stake would be sold.

Initially CSWW will buy shares in First Boston's holding company at a cost of some \$25m. This will give it about a 30 per cent interest. Boston will then use the proceeds to buy the 31 per cent former White Weld stake in CSWW.

Simultaneously the international investment banking interests of First Boston, represented by its two thirds stake in First Boston (Europe),

Davy buys St Piran's Monk stake

By Our Financial Staff

St Piran's has sold its 29.95 per cent stake in A. Monk, the civil engineering group, and the shares have been purchased by Davy International at a price of 102p per share cum dividend.

The vendor had been building up a holding in Monk for over a year and the possibility of a bid was widely mooted. Monk's likely reply in such circumstances was starkly indicated last January when it resisted St Piran's attempts to put a representative on the board.

Davy's involvement, however, is seen in a different light. The heavy engineer and process plant contractor stated yesterday that it had no intention of launching a full bid and Sir John Buckley, chairman, said: "The 30 per cent stake which would trigger an offer for the outstanding shares."

Mr W. S. Wittingham, chairman of Monk, commented yesterday that the situation was "much the same as it was" "always that risk" and Davy would eventually make a bid, he felt the two groups could work in harmony.

For its part, Davy will consolidate Monk's associate and the projected dividend yield is 4.25 per cent.

It was "purely coincidental" that Davy already had a man on the A. Monk. Along with Mr James Bywater of Sime Darby, Mr A. Robinson a non-executive director on Davy's main board and chairman of the Herbert Morris subsidiary, joined Monk on June 1 this year to help block St Piran's advances.

Subsidies to aid long-term jobless

By Maurice Corina

An experiment in using subsidies to cut down the numbers of the long-term unemployed was announced by the Government yesterday. Employers on Merseyside, Tyneside, and in the Leeds areas will be able to claim £20 a week for up to 26 weeks if they recruit anyone who has been without a job for more than a year.

The scheme, which is subject to European Commission approval, will start early next month and the results will be studied to see if this is an effective means of stimulating job recruitment.

Two grocery chains drop more Green Shield outlets

By Derek Harris

Green Shield trading stamps are to be dropped in a further 100 outlets of International Stores, the grocery chain subsidiary of BAT, in a phased programme running into next year.

International has already dropped Green Shield stamps in about 100 stores which have been converted to Pricerite discount outlets this year. The additional 100 are also going over to a Pricerite operation.

But the Green Shield Trading Stamp group, whose after-tax profits fell 21 per cent last time, faced a double blow yesterday as the Bristol-based Gateway chain, part of Linford Holdings, confirmed that it was dropping Green Shield stamps entirely.

More than 70 Gateway outlets will be affected on August 5. This follows the decision last April by Budgets—part of Booker McConnell—to cease stamps at 60 of their more than 100 supermarkets. But Budgets is continuing with Green Shield stamps at the rest of its outlets.

These defections are the worst blow to Green Shield since Tesco's decision to drop the stamps for a price-cutting campaign started the retail discount war. But Green Shield last night had no comment on what fresh initiatives it might take.

Mr Donald Lamb, Gateway's chief executive, said last night he had not been happy at the recent "super discount" campaign which had been launched by Green Shield late last year as a means of making trading stamps more attractive.

Under the scheme, which is operated by International among others, customers can redeem stamps for goods at exceptionally low prices.

International last night denied rumours in the trade that it was planning to drop Green Shield stamps entirely.

Optrex agrees to freeze on prices

By Our Commercial Editor

Optrex has said it will not increase its prices of eye preparations before the end of the year, after a Price Commission report which recommended a price freeze until next March.

This was announced yesterday by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, and Mr Roy Hattersley, the Secretary of State, has consequently decided not to make an order against the company as a result of the commission's report.

The commission had criticized patent medicine manufacturers for charging too much for certain leading products.

How the markets moved

Isles	
Barclays Bank	8p to 33p
HSBC	7p to 14p
Bank of India	5p to 37p
Bank of China	4p to 27p
Bank of Japan	6p to 21p
Bank of Korea	7p to 32p
Bank of Siam	8p to 32p
Alls	
Small Share	2p to 28p
Small Share	3p to 11p
Small Share	3p to 22p
Small Share	1p to 18p
Small Share	2p to 5p
Small Share	3p to 34p
Small Share	4p to 15p
Indices went ahead.	
Edged securities were firm.	
Gold premium 106.5 per cent.	
Effective exchange rate index up 25 points to 81.000.	
Effective exchange rate index up 62.1.	

The Times index: 209.47 + 1.73
The FT index: 479.3 + 4.9

THE POUND

	Rank	Bank
Australia \$	1.71	1.63
Austria Sch	29.25	27.25
Belgium Fr	64.25	60.75
Canada \$	6.16	2.08
Denmark Kr	11.00	10.50
Finland Mk	8.23	7.88
France Fr	8.74	8.52
Germany DM	3.51	3.29
Greece Dr	70.00	66.00
Hong Kong \$	9.05	8.50
Italy L	1650.00	1565.00
Japan Yn	485.00	380.00
Netherlands Gld	4.12	4.00
Norway Kr	10.55	10.10
Portugal Esc	66.00	61.00
S Africa Rd	1.97	1.84
Spain Pes	149.50	142.50
Sweden Kr	3.91	3.82
Switzerland Fr	3.51	3.29
US \$	1.94	1.88
Yugoslavia Dnr	36.00	24.00

Control of petrol price displays to be tightened

New regulations tightening up controls on petrol price displays at garages are to be introduced by the Government.

The aim is to stop motorists being misled by price-cutting offers applying to "wholesaler" or "retailer" gallons only or with decimals of a penny made barely discernible.

The new regulations, announced yesterday by Mr Robert MacLennan, Under-Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, will ensure that the higher prices for part-gallons—at the moment often significantly higher according to Mr MacLennan—will be displayed with equal prominence to the whole-gallon price.

Decimal figures will also have to be of the same size and prominence as whole figures.

European science satellite achieves orbit success

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

A second attempt to place a European scientific satellite in "geostationary" orbit at a height of 35,900 km over the equator appears to have been successful, a spokesman for British Aerospace, prime contractor in a European consortium for the spacecraft, said yesterday.

Known as Geos-2, the satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, last Friday and manoeuvred into its geostationary orbit over the weekend. It is now "drifting" into the planned position at which it will begin to make scientific observations of the magnetosphere, a region of near-earth space under the influence of the earth's magnetic field.

Geos-1 was launched in April last year, but failed to achieve

Braby Leslie Ltd

Mechanical and Civil Engineers

A New Record

	Year to 31st March	1978	1977	
Turnover		£31,376	£23,659	+ 33%
Profit before taxation (1977 - after charging £271,000 for losses of Cable Lines Ltd)		2,390	1,515	+ 58%
Net Profit after taxation		2,007	1,221	+ 64%
"Gross" dividend per share		7.9545p	6.9231p	+ 15%
Earnings per share		23.8p	17.7p	+ 34%
Net tangible assets per share		89.6p	70.2p	+ 28%

Points made in his statement by the Chairman, Mr. Eric R. Izod:

1977-78 was a highly successful year for the Group. Every subsidiary was profitable.

Braby Group, including Auto Diesels, again made the largest contribution to Group profits.

George Leslie, despite severe weather conditions in Scotland, achieved an all-time record profit.

Acquisitions enabled us to extend our mechanical engineering product range and to rationalise marketing and manufacturing activities.

Export sales rose by 61%. New acquisitions, Briggs, Payter and Edgill are now contributing to the Group's export performance.

Unpredictable factors make it difficult to forecast, but the forward order position is not unsatisfactory. The Board will strive for continued progress through internal growth and acquisition.

A one-for-five scrip issue is proposed.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, Braby Leslie Limited, Croxley Mill Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3QG.

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Summit fails to resolve differences over trade liberalization

From Caroline Atkinson
Bonn, July 17

No further progress seems to have been made at the summit on the thorny issue of trade liberalization. Many differences remain between the seven major countries here on key questions in the multilateral trade negotiations taking place in Geneva.

However, outright disagreement has been avoided and a form of words acceptable to all the participating nations was eventually hammered out at this morning's session.

A new deadline of December 15, has been agreed for the completion of the so-called Tokyo Round of trade negotiations. The discussions this morning centred on the document prepared by the trade negotiators of the major countries in Geneva last week.

The French and Americans both took a hard line on the document and insisted on watering down the expression of support for it.

The "framework of understanding" brought to Bonn was an attempt to paper over the cracks of disagreement between the industrialized countries. Originally the negotiators had hoped to finish their talks by July 16 and an agreement, at least on the broad approach to the trade talks, was to have been presented for the seal of approval at Bonn.

But this proved impossible. The outstanding differences remain great as the final form of words agreed to Bonn spells out clearly. The seven countries here have decided to say that while they "approve and support" the text of the Geneva framework of understanding, there are still "some difficult and important issues unresolved".

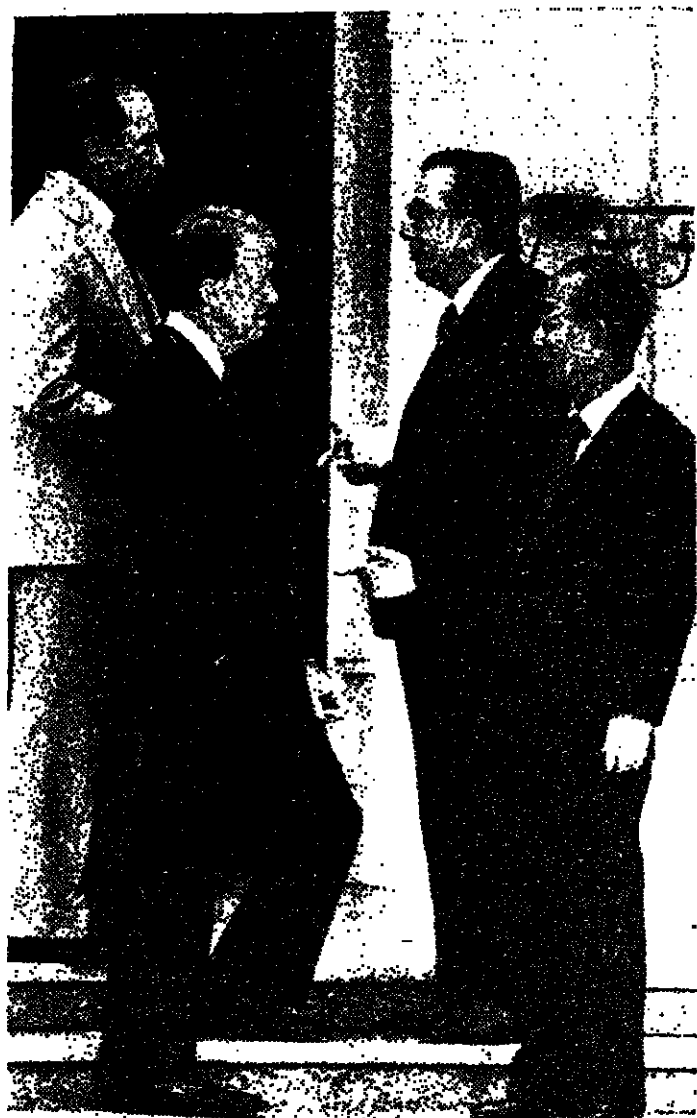
The first of these concerns agricultural trade. There was a row brewing yesterday within the EEC countries as the French maintained that the EEC trade delegation had exceeded its mandate in Geneva last week and conceded too much to the Americans.

This was smoothed over before today's summit session, but the French are still adamant that the EEC should not give way to the United States on the issue of subsidies for agricultural goods, the American line that such subsidies which boost the share of agricultural goods in world trade are against a rule of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The Americans also were dissatisfied with the talks on agriculture. They had hoped to get more access for their agricultural goods to EEC markets.

After this morning's session Mr Robert Strauss, the United States trade negotiator refused to give a progress report. He said that there were still too many disagreements between the seven.

Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission was apparently more positive about the morning's talks.



Talk goes on informally during a break in the Bonn summit yesterday with, left to right, Mr Pierre Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister, Mr Jimmy Carter, President of the United States, Signor Giulio Andreotti, Italy's Prime Minister, and Mr Takeo Fukuda, Japan's Prime Minister.

He emphasized four points which would be achieved if the Gatt negotiators managed to meet the December 15 deadline. First that it would allow a major liberalization of trade in the 1980s. Secondly that the Gatt rules governing international trade would be in line with the needs of the 1980s. Thirdly that there would be more discipline in international trading. Fourthly that it would bring increased benefits for the less developed countries.

Other important problems which have yet to be solved include: the treatment of industry; safeguard provisions against imports which are flooding domestic markets and wrecking particular industries; the United States refusal to abide by the Gatt clause which requires an industry to show that "material injury" has been caused by imports before action can be taken to limit them; and the Japanese offer on tariff reductions.

There was no attempt today to move the negotiations forward on substantive issues. These will be left to the Geneva negotiators. The timetable is extremely tight, as the trade talks have to be completed by the end of the year if they are to be presented to Congress in time, there seems to have been minimal progress so far on all the important problems.

America wants the Gatt countries to draw up a list of guidelines on those domestic subsidies which are equivalent to export subsidies and could thus be made subject to countervailing duties in importing countries.

Britain has been strongly against this, and has persuaded all the other EEC countries, including Germany, to support a hard line. Britain wants to change the safeguard provisions to allow discrimination against the imports of a particular country but low cost developing countries are resisting this.

Opposition welcomes BSC plans for Redpath Dorman Long

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Plans by the British Steel Corporation for buying off the activities of its Redpath Dorman Long subsidiary to the National Enterprise Board with the possibility of further private sector involvement received a welcome from Opposition MPs yesterday.

Mr Norman Lamont, MP, an Opposition industry spokesman, referring to the talks now under way between the BSC and the NEB said that the separation of the RDL division from the corporation could help to resolve the problems of the two.

"One of the many drawbacks facing the nationalized corporation is that it is less free to sell off loss-making parts of its operations than private sector companies," he said.

Private sector companies which encountered serious difficulties, he explained, immediately drew in their horns and attempted to see which part of the loss-making operation could be amputated.

Nationalized industries, operating in a political framework, lacked the freedom, "Mr Lamont said, to bring some greater flexibility to the public

sector, then we would welcome that."

"Equally if the NEB is able to move parts of the public sector on to the BP model involving private capital then that would be a welcome development," he added.

Mr Lamont's comments will be welcomed by the BSC, which is actively pursuing its discussions with the NEB. Equally, his comments mark a more constructive approach by the Opposition towards the NEB which has been the subject of much criticism from Conservative leaders and backbenchers.

Details of the plan for selling off RDL which is engaged in the production of civil engineering, and is also involved in the offshore business, was exclusively revealed in Business News yesterday.

Although both BSC and the NEB insist that the talks are exploratory, it is known that considerable progress has been made. However, the likelihood of a General Election this autumn (apart from the fact that the NEB has yet to be constituted) that it has a role with RDL suggests that a conclusion is unlikely for some months.

NEB may raise holdings in office automation groups

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

A National Enterprise Board plan to build up its holdings in companies involved in aspects of office automation may go ahead. This is believed to be an area of key strategic importance, comparable to the computer software effort being mounted under the banner of the board's Inspec Data Systems subsidiary.

No confirmation of the plan is forthcoming from the NEB, but a hint of developments was given in the announcement earlier this month of the board's intention to acquire an interest of between 20 and 30 per cent in Logica, one of the leading British computer software and systems companies.

On the software side, the announcement said, Logica was considering areas of cooperation with Inspec Data Systems. On the hardware side, these included a substantial word-processing operation, and "both the NEB and the company feel that this

activity is capable of considerable expansion".

An NEB official visited Logica headquarters yesterday to discuss the company's VTS-100 video typing system. This is a single-station version of the multiple "shared-logic" Unicomp word-processing system which Logica originally designed for Unilever and has since been marketed generally.

Word processing is one element of office automation which is now moving ahead rapidly with an increasing range of the appropriate microprocessor-based devices and systems. It is associated with "electronic mail" systems for transmitting text over telephone lines, and with systems of information retrieval.

Other elements within the general field of office automation include advances in data processing, automated telecommunications, facsimile transmission, and "intelligent" copying machines. Increasingly, these various elements are being integrated into complete business systems.

Bank dispute on closing at Christmas

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

English clearing bank staff may be asked to work a seasonal ballot if they are prepared to strike in protest at proposed holiday arrangements over Christmas.

The Committee of London Clearing Banks says banks should remain open for a full day on Friday, December 22, the last working day before the holiday. The National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) says they should close at noon.

It is claimed by the union that the decision was taken without consultation. Mr Leif Mills, general secretary, said staff had become accustomed to getting four and a half days' holiday over Christmas and the proposed arrangement this year would reduce it to four.

Tomorrow the union's English clearing banks committee will consider resolutions from its areas and branches. Mr Mills said yesterday that of 14 areas, 10 advocated industrial action.

He thought it likely that the committee would recommend a ballot to the union's national executive, which meets next week. It would be held in October or November.

Mr Edward Richards, director of the Federation of London Clearing Bank Employers, said yesterday that banks closed at noon when the last working day before Christmas was Christmas Eve. That would not be the case this year.

The banks closed early last year, although the last working day was not Christmas Eve. Mr Richards said that was "a mistake".

Iraqi plan to overcome oil glut

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Further evidence of attempts by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to reduce supplies to facilitate a general price rise in December after two years of freeze has come from Iraq.

In an interview with the state newspaper, Mr Tayik Abdul-Karim, the Iraqi oil minister, said his country was considering a new production and marketing policy designed to overcome the glut in Western oil markets.

There was no elaboration on the new policy, but it probably indicates that Iraq has agreed to hold production at least to present levels. Elsewhere, Saudi Arabia is using the over-supply to alter the balance of its production of light and heavy crudes, which has had the effect of marginally increasing the spot prices of light oils.

Other countries, however, have increased light production. With few signs of any rise in spot oil prices, Opec countries will have to reduce output if a real price increase is to be achieved.

In London the Opec experts looking at ways of compensating for the decline in the dollar ended their meeting without making any statement. Another meeting of the strategic committee, which is looking at the longer term aims of the group, began yesterday.

The two are inter-related in that the chairman of the strategic committee, Shaikh Yamani of Saudi Arabia, the largest Opec producer, sees some regular rises as the best course to follow.

Ban urged on productivity deals in asbestos handling

By Clifford Webb

Mr John Belcher, managing director of Envirocor, the Lichfield, Staffordshire, company which specializes in the removal of asbestos, yesterday called for a ban on productivity based bonus payments for workers in this potentially dangerous material.

In a letter to Mr A. D. Carstairs, of the Health and Safety Executive, he said: "The temptation to cut corners for a speedier, more profitable conclusion to a contract must be eliminated".

Although this type of payment was traditional within the industry, it was his understanding that its abolition had the general support of at least one major trade union.

"I therefore urge closer co-operation between the Health and Safety Executive, employers and trade unions in the further investigation of this aspect."

Mr Belcher was commenting on a report recently issued by the Health and Safety Commission—Work on Thermal and Acoustic Insulation, and Sprayed Coatings. He was surprised that the report had not considered the ability of a contractor to provide insurance coverage against the hazards posed by asbestos.

"We feel that a primary prerequisite for a company applying for an asbestos contractors' licence is that it obtains third party insurance cover, clearly identifying the company's activities. This should be in writing, and available upon demand at any time."

He was also concerned about the absence of proposals for penalizing companies who employed unlicensed and less costly "cowboy contractors".

He particularly regretted the failure to close this gap, because a sub committee of the Advisory Committee on Asbestos had recommended that hiring unlicensed firms should be made the subject of prosecution.

Mr Belcher also called for the factory inspectorate to be informed before contractors were appointed, and not afterwards. He wants this to apply to both blue and the less dangerous white asbestos.

His letter went on: "Despite several years of increased awareness of the hazards of asbestos, I am still so often appalled during the day to day activities of Envirocor at the lack of knowledge, even within the public sector, of current legislation and codes to be observed during asbestos handling and removal operations."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political factor a macro problem in microprocessor economics

From Mr B. Sherman

Sir, While normally respecting the opinions and expertise of David Blake I must register some reservations about his sanguine view of the economic impact of microprocessors in his article of July 13. There are many areas which I think he did not cover and where circumstances will be remarkably different to those which he refers to as having happened in the past.

The first is the universal ubiquity of the microprocessor; it affects all known employment prospects. The second is its indirect impacts which, for example, would mean that if, as David Blake suggests, they would be incorporated into motor cars, they would also reduce the number of components in that car, changing both the manufacturing processes of the component, the assembly

of the car, the car itself and its future maintenance problems.

Such changes have already occurred in television set manufacture and many thousands of people in Britain at present drawing unemployment pay are witness to the fact that neither Keynesian nor monetarist views have been helpful in re-employing them. I must add, however, that the overwhelming majority of those unemployed do not owe their present position to technological change.

Where I would agree with David Blake is that in the very long-term these problems may well resolve themselves. However, society, with its rising expectations, is surely not equipped to take the disruptions which this long-term interregnum will provide. For David Blake's arguments to come true there needs to be a totally different approach to the distribu-

tion of wealth as well as income.

It is not sufficient to create the wealth through new technologies and hope that this distribution will emerge. Such a policy will inevitably attract hostility from those made unemployed and it is made union representation. What I believe is paramount to realize that while it is beyond the wit of man to devise economic mechanisms to adjust to a major change in technology the recent past would suggest that the political system, political attitudes will prove to be a major stumbling block. Herein lies the macro problem. Yours faithfully,

BARRIE SHERMAN, Director of Research, Association of Scientific Technical and Managerial Staffs, 10-25A Jamestown Road, NW

Industrial relations in small businesses

From Mr Colin Dauris

Sir, In "The Times" Business News recently you have given broad coverage to the workings of the Employment Protection Act. In particular there has been expression of various points of view concerning the Act's effect on smaller businesses.

It was therefore most unfortunate that when the subject was considered worthy of an article by Mr Paul Routledge on your main feature page "Industrial Tribunals are small firms in the firing line?" June 23 such an unbalanced account should be given. The tone of it is epitomized by the opinion that employees in small firms need special protection because they do not belong to trade unions and by the comment: "...small firms where industrial relations are more informal (or, to put it another way, more primitive)..."

The suggestion that a nationally standardized bureaucratic procedure for relations between employers and employees is superior to one where formality is superfluous because employer and employee know each other, and employer face to face shows nothing so much as the author's prejudices.

What the Employment Protection Act does is to compel smaller businesses to adopt procedures which may be necessary in larger ones because, unfortunately, the people who make the decisions can know only slightly, if at all, many of those affected. In smaller organizations such procedures are not just inappropriate, they are harmful because they do nothing but exacerbate a situation where a personal word, unsworn and unconfirmed is normally enough.

Why 48 per cent of applications to industrial tribunals come from employees in companies employing 100 workers or less, I suggest, because they have been advised to "have a go" as the firm has not carried out the approved procedure to the letter. It is certainly not, as Mr Routledge seems to think, because em-

ployers in smaller businesses are so inclined to discriminate against employees out of hand. There must have been in people afraid of the sack day to day—people who had recourse and could be thrown out. This ignores a very small employer but that it is far from easy to get a man whom one knows personally and that one tends to offer rather than hasten such decision when it is necessary. Every small employer but that it is far from easy to get a man whom one knows personally and that one tends to offer rather than hasten such decision when it is necessary. Every small employer but that it is far from easy to get a man whom one knows personally and that one tends to offer rather than hasten such decision when it is necessary.

Yours faithfully, COLIN DAURIS, Chairman, Legislation Committee, The Association of Independent Businesses in this country, Europe House, World Trade Centre, London E1 9AA, June 30.

Financial discipline of pensions

From Mr M. A. Pomeroy

Sir, Mr Peter Hordern, MP, writes (July 14): "If pensions to nationalized industries were paid by simple transfer from Revenue, the Government Actuary says that £1,500 million a year would be saved. Quite tempting!"

I am reminded of a cartoon by Thurber (I believe) in which a woman returns home with a new fur coat and announces to her husband that she has bought it in a sale and saved \$100. Barely glancing up from his newspaper, the husband replies "Show me the \$100."

The only way a pension scheme can make "savings" in the long run is by reducing its outgo on pensions. Paying pensions from Revenue may appear

to "save" money now but in reality it merely delays the time when the money has to be found.

I would have expected Mr Hordern to approve of the financial discipline which requires an employee's pension to be provided out of his and his employer's savings during his working lifetime and to be fully funded by the time he retires. This discipline is an effective antidote to the "promise now, pay later" attitude, an attitude to which Mr Hordern seems in danger of succumbing.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL POMEROY, 31 D'Abernon Drive, St. D'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey.

Tax snags for the single

From Mr P. J. Allery

Sir, — Mrs Weinberg (Let July 12) would like to have tax advantages of a single man. Would she also want disadvantages for example, widow's pension if her husband dies and only single pension for him when he retires. As a single person I fear that my tax and social security outgoes are the same or more than those of a married couple. Incomes will be less. To us your correspondent: "If I do not know what discrimination is?" Yours truly, P. J. ALLERY, 55 Crystal Palace Road, London SE22

Single watchdog body 'acceptable'

Merging of the Price Commission and Monopolies Commission would be acceptable if the Price Commission's power was preserved to allow it to take initiatives to start investigations, said Mr Charles Williams, the Price Commission chairman, speaking at the Oxford Business Summer School last night.

But he urged that these powers should be extended by allowing the Price Commission on its own initiative to start examinations of sectors as well as, at present, individual company investigations. Sector investigations at present can be ordered only by the Secretary of State.

A shortcoming of present sector references was that it was never altogether clear to the public what the grounds for the reference were, said Mr Williams. On the other hand, referral procedures for the Monopolies Commission were over-elaborate.

He added: "The Office of Fair Trading is required to give so much attention to preparing a reference that it seems in many instances to be going over the same ground that the Monopolies Commission has to cover when the reference is actually made."

Competition policy should remain pragmatic and could only be applied case by case, Mr Williams went on. The advantages and disadvantages of

In brief

concentration in terms of economic efficiency varied so much from sector to sector that it was impossible to lay down precise rules applicable across a wide range.

Pakistan Airlines buys 4 European airlines

Pakistan International Airlines is to buy four European-made Airbus A300s and take options for six more aircraft. The contract was initiated in Karachi yesterday by Mr Enver Jamali, managing director of PIA and Mr Dan Krook, the Airbus Industrie senior vice-president commercial, and is subject to approval by the respective governments.

The first three Airbus aircraft of the extended range version A300B-200, with 165 tonnes maximum takeoff weight, will be delivered in March 1980 for operations on PIA's high density domestic and regional routes.

Royal Doulton secures 7.3 interim price rise

Royal Doulton Tableware, the S. Pearson and Son subsidiary, has secured from the

Price Commission clearance for a 7.3 per cent average increase on a range of china, earthenware and ornamental items. It is an interim increase during the Commission's investigation of Royal Doulton's planned average rise of 9.3 per cent. The interim rise was allowed under profit safeguard regulations which the Commission is obliged to apply.

2,000 laid off at GEC plant

The workforce of more than 2,000 at the GEC power engineering plant in Stafford were laid off yesterday because of a pay dispute. They were suspended by management after shop stewards voted to continue sanctions imposed in support of a pay claim and production was at a complete standstill with no prospect of an early solution to the dispute.

Big gold discovery made in Peru

An important gold discovery has been made in the Madre de Dios region of Peru, and officials are predicting it might solve the country's basic economic problems.

The find was announced by Señor Guillermo Flores, president of the state-run Centromin Peru Company which carries out prospecting work in this south east region.

Time Products Limited



Results for the year ending 31st January

	1978	1977
£ thousands		
Sales	29,904	24,036
Trading profit before taxation	3,871	2,929
Total funds employed	14,175	10,712
Earnings (net) per share	28.09p	18.62p

● Last year we experienced satisfactory trade in all activities.

● Current trading is successful and we view our prospects with considerable optimism.

Marcus J. Margulies, Chairman.

The annual report may be obtained from the company at 81-89 Farringdon Road, London, EC1M 3LH.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Keeping the lid on interest rates

trably, the market was quick to search motives behind yesterday afternoon's that the authorities had decided to the repayment of some £440m of al deposits from next Monday until ember 11. Was it simply the technical rthing operation in the money markets the Bank suggested? Was it that the ories were disturbed at the fuller pic- of bank lending that they had now built Or was it perhaps a sign that the auth- were expecting a fairly quick reactiva- of significant gilt edged sales?

nceably, it was a combination of all a though short-term money market cona- tions must have been uppermost in the orities' mind. The discount market has substantially short of funds for some now and looming towards the end of week was the prospect of the special sit recall coinciding with substantial of funds out of the banking system ay of VAT and ACT payments. All, cover, at a time when the banks are st certainly keeping their reserve asset finely pared as to rearrange their unt market assets to allow themselves room for manoeuvre within the k. The official fear, now apparently called, was for unwanted upward pres- on interest rates.

ether or not the authorities are also amulating renewed gilt sales over the couple of weeks is a moot point. Wed- ay takes us into a new banking month as gilt sales go with the long gap prob- within 1 of a point of reactivation. rly, a great deal depends on the contents the White Paper on the next round of nes policy (expected next week) and, ss, on the union reaction to it.

£1.6m to £2.1m with the only sore spot being the one French property which is now some 80 per cent let. Otherwise the fall in dividend and interest income and the sharp rise in underwriting, dealing and jobbing income largely reflects the change of status from a company to a partnership of jobbers Wedd Durlacher.

Of more relevance to the shares, however, is the sharp rise in net asset value—in part reflecting the group's handsome dealing profits during the plantation battles last year—which has gone up by more than a half to 325p, against the rise of a fifth for the market as a whole, leaving the shares even after yesterday's 8p rise to 201p selling at a discount of more than a third. Meanwhile the quarter increase in the dividend to 10.5p a share gross gives a yield of 51 per cent and following the Magnum sale RIT has plenty of cash muscle to involve itself elsewhere.

As it is events over the past year have illustrated the speed with which the group can move. The Magnum holding, which a year ago looked to be the fulcrum of the group, has gone; it is slowly sorting out the Leslie & Godwin position; and it also sees itself as significantly pushing up understated values in the plantations sector. More recently it has announced a 9.4 per cent stake in Godfrey Davis where RIT sees strong growth prospects and a near 12 per cent stake yesterday in Royal Worcester where it sees prospects for rejuvenating an otherwise dull company.

The essence, however, of RIT is that it provides institutional managers, who are limited for the most part to investing in a couple of hundred shares, with an entry to higher risk situations. From the days of Spey Investments to the National Coal Board's involvement with smaller companies this area holds a fascination in the usually dull life of a fund manager.

● Standard Chartered's annual report makes only a passing reference to its major United States purchase, Union Bancorp in California for \$372m. But it is clear from the balance sheet that the group will at some stage need to make a rights issue to fund the purchase.

Loan capital last year rose from only £7m to £67m but is still some way short of the 30 per cent of shareholders funds banks are unwilling to go above. On this yardstick with equity funds of £380m it could probably double its borrowings but that is some way short of the £200m needed in the United States. A rights issue for at least £50m perhaps on a one-for-five basis would appear in the offing, but for the moment in terms of deposit ratios the balance sheet is comfortable enough.

Timber companies Re-rating possibilities

Today, Magnet & Southern should turn in maintained profits of around £14.3m, thanks to its manufacturing operations. Otherwise the timber picture which emerged yesterday from Montague L. Meyer is fairly typical. After substantial stock profits in 1976, the strength of sterling against the devaluations in supplying countries caused a complete turnaround last year, which for Meyer meant a £1.3m fall in profits to £12.9m.

Timber prices fell by up to 25 per cent in 1977 while volume remained static; now the outlook for prices suggests some firming against the background of a weaker pound and a more stable world supply context while the volume pointers are suggesting an upturn of, say, 5 per cent.

So the prospect is for generally improved earnings quality among the timber companies with the stock valuation fluctuations of the last two years disappearing. Combine this with the significantly improved cash flow position in merchanting—stocks are now moved considerably quicker—and the significant discounts in the share prices and the sector looks due for some uprating towards that of construction and building materials.

In the case of Meyer (though the Hallam problems are still not over with more redundancies due to be announced today), profits of £15.5m look feasible this year indicating a fully-taxed p/e ratio of around 6 while the yield is 8.6 per cent.

Demand management takes a beating

David Blake

The communiqué does make reference to the fact that Germany will stimulate its economy and that Japan stands ready to do anything needed to reach its previously stated growth target (7 per cent) during the current fiscal year. A number of other countries in the West are also planning either to cut taxes or to increase spending. The scale of this extra demand is, however, small.

Even if the Germans do a little bit more than they were prepared to commit themselves to firmly, the overall impact on growth will be at most of the order of 1 to 1.5 per cent on over the most optimistic assumptions. But the workings of the international multiplier.

Less ambitious target

That sort of extra growth would suggest that if things go well the total level of unemployment in the industrial world might stabilise by about the end of 1979 after rising for most of that year. A look back at past commitments makes it clear that if a fairly optimistic view is taken of the results of the meeting, the western nations heads said that they hope to achieve by the end of 1979 a target which is less ambitious than what they said six months ago they would reach in early 1979.

It is not surprising that they were keen to make no mention of the overall growth level they expect to reach as a result of the latest measures.

It is certainly no surprise to those like the Germans, Japanese and French who basically do not believe that growth in the medium term can be achieved by fiscal stimulus. This is in part because they do not believe our present problems are caused by a shortage of demand.

Instead, they believe that they arise from our slowness in adapting to a huge shock which has changed the rules under which we are playing the game of international economics. The label usually used to describe this is the oil crisis, but in fact the phenomenon, if it exists, is much more complex and pervasive.

The increase in the price of oil imposes its own demands for structural change, calling as it does for a switch to less energy-intensive forms of production and of consumption.

The annoyance with the United States about its slowness to implement a proper energy policy has been caused simply by the dollar instability which this has caused by boosting the balance of payments deficit. There is also a feeling that the United States has been a bad international neighbour which is refusing to make the adjustments which are needed.

Oil is, however, just one of the changes which have occurred just as important in its way in the eyes of people like the Germans is the revolution which is making the newly

industrialized countries such as Korea the most efficient producers in the world of a large range of goods.

That feeling underlies much of the scepticism felt in Germany towards straightforward stimulation of demand. Of course, we could create jobs by spending more money, goes the argument, but they would not be real jobs.

By pumping in cash we would only be helping industries that are overexpanded anyway, or prolonging the life of industries which have no future at all.

The German's opposition to excessive stimulus is thus in some ways much of a piece with their insistence on the need to remove both tariff protectionism and government subsidies to industries in trouble. They are against using either micro or macro-measures which, they believe will postpone the structural changes needed.

Expansion of markets

The British position has been (and still is) that the structural changes which are needed will come more easily and indeed will probably only come at all against a background where the economies of the world are expanding quite rapidly.

This argument really has two parts. One is that it is the expansion of markets which calls for the new investment needed to restructure industry. The second is that without

growth at a rate fast enough to bring down unemployment (which means 5 to 5.5 per cent a year for the OECD area if anything significant is to be achieved) protectionism will spread both between countries and inside countries as workers try to hold on to their jobs.

Since 1976 the United States has been the one country which has actually put this philosophy into practice. It has been about it. In some ways the results have been impressive. Unemployment has come down sharply and growth rates have been consistently high.

That phase of American economic policy has now come to an end. Part of the reason is that the fact that other countries, such as Germany and Japan, did not follow suit produced very large payments imbalances leading to pressure on the dollar.

The other, and more important, reason is that domestic inflation in the United States has once again become the most immediately pressing issue facing the Administration.

The path which the western leaders have now all are talking about is to put stability first to fight inflation through fairly cautious demand management policies and to hope that this will provide the extra business confidence needed to provide sustainable, healthy growth in the future. Whether it works or not like that or whether the world will drift into a new recession as the Americans (all of whose words were reactionary) turn down their economy to converge with the rest of the world is something we shall no doubt be discussing at the next summit in Tokyo in 1979.

British worries over the Community's attitude to textile imports

Under the latest Multi Fibre Agreement the Community's textile and clothing industry has been given a breathing space to reorganize, reequip and become more competitive, but there is every sign that the Commission regards this protection as a temporary expedient. When the agreement expires, the industry will be expected to stand or fall by its efficiency and effectiveness.

But what has been worrying Mr Edmund Dell, the Secretary of State for Trade, and the industry generally is that having fought a protracted battle to ensure a strictly controlled regime of quota ceilings and all the paraphernalia of surveillance on imports from less developed countries, the Commission might adopt a more relaxed attitude towards countries with associate status in the Community.

The fears expressed by the industry over the months have proved to be well founded. Last week the Commission imposed a ban on imports of Greek made T-shirts and blouses into the United Kingdom, Italy and France. This followed huge shipments of these items into these countries in the first five months of this year at levels well in excess of those agreed and covered by undertakings given by the Greeks.

Such action, in the industry's view, smacks of shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted and raises doubts about the efficacy of the various measures introduced to keep a careful eye on the level of all textile imports.

It is against the background of the action taken against Greek imports that the industry and the Government is watching so intently the talks between the Commission and the Portuguese authorities. The question of textile imports from Portugal was discussed by the Council of Ministers at the end of last month and Mr Dell indicated that the talks were continuing to make it clear that this question presents particular difficulties for us.

Mr St John Longworth, director of the Textile Industry Support Campaign said: "For at least five years Spain, Portugal, Greece and Turkey have secretly made any secret of their view that the United Kingdom is clearly the softest option for penetration of the EEC textiles markets. Our campaign takes a jaundiced view of the effects full membership is likely to have on our own industry."

The Lancashire-based organization has levelled many allegations against the disruptive activities of some of the Community's associate states in the textile sector.

Moves are afoot however, to ensure improved surveillance of the level of textile imports through quicker access to

Customs and Excise computer information on trends, and the existing closer liaison between industry organizations and Whitehall is expected to be made even closer.

Under the terms of the present Multi Fibre Agreement and the separate arrangements with countries in the Comecon block, 98 per cent of the United Kingdom's low cost clothing and textile imports are covered by agreements and surveillance measures.

"Provided the new MFA continues to be enforced effectively—and we have every intention that it should be—it will give the United Kingdom textile and clothing industry better protection than in the past and more certainly for the

future", Mr Dell said earlier this month.

The Trade Secretary has proved himself to be a tough negotiator on behalf of the textile industry during negotiations with the Commission. But the negotiations with Portugal and the other associate members of the Community will be very carefully monitored by the industry and any agreements of undertaking and agreements will be quickly and firmly dealt with.

Further infringements are feared and the United Kingdom will make it clear that future arrangements must be more carefully scrutinized and monitored.

Peter Hill

Baker Perkins. World engineers.

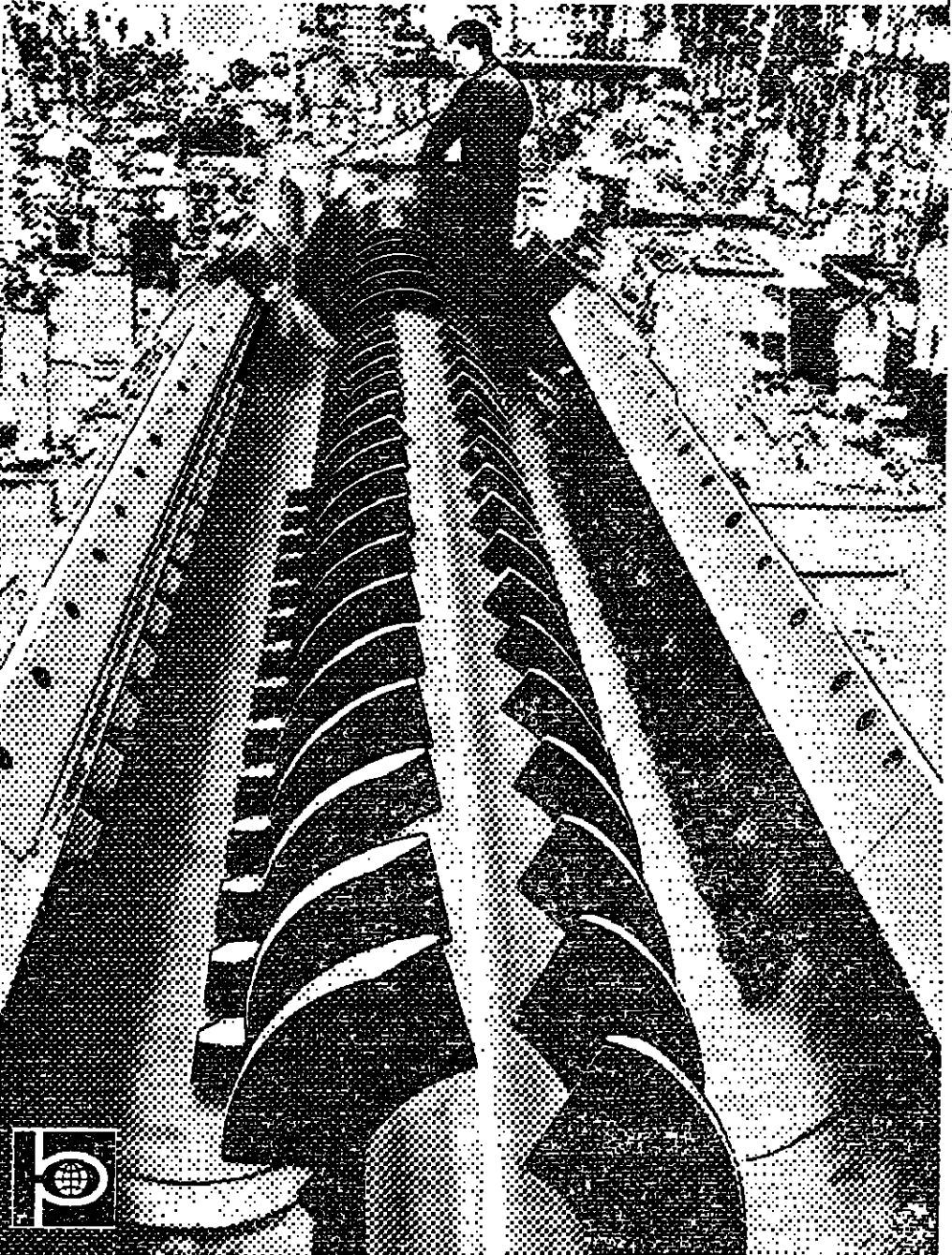
We sell to every continent. Baker Perkins plant produces bread, biscuits, cakes and confectionery. Our machines also package these products—and tea and pharmaceuticals—giving protection, hygiene and convenience. For chemicals and plastics we specialise in mixing (as seen below).

compounding and separating machinery. Most of the world's antibiotics are extracted on our plant. Baker Perkins also produces high speed printing presses, foundry sand mixers and specialised bearings for a wide range of engineering applications.

Outstanding points from the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1978

- Overseas turnover 71% of total sales of £86.5 million.
- Profit before taxation £8.9 million, an increase of £1.0 million over the previous year.
- Profit before interest and taxation—22.8% on funds employed.
- Investment for the future—£5.7 million capital expenditure and £2.2 million spent on research and development.

A copy of the Report and Accounts will be sent on application to the Secretary Baker Perkins Holdings Limited, Westfield Road, Peterborough, England PE3 6TA



Business Diary: Fantasia at the Abbey National

Abbey National, Britain's largest building society, published a guide for young people, The Abbey National Y Machine, featuring Y Mouse and his pals.

read on:

the time I had ploughed the traffic to the Y National offices in Street the cocktail party be star of the new guide fell under-way.

first I could not make out an Abbey National or who was Mickey er. Big ears and shiner are not that uncommon: Building Societies Assoc., after all.

new I was looking for me in big, white mittens, range open-necked shirt, blue pants and gumboot-yellow slip-on shoes. Not y de rigueur garb in even just switched-on of build-ocies yet, but still ir e easy.

is his size, you see. You the way film and televi-ople always look so much in the flesh than on reen? Mickey is no ex- in. He is about a foot tall, in rodent terms makes a mouse mountain, but ard to spot in a thicket of National tressers.

me I could see over in ner. She was perched on f a decauter and looked f she was explaining all a back pain to Abbey- al's chairman. This is



"Isn't it a bit risky, boasting that we've been running the economy for 15 months?"

Lord Hill, the Radio Doctor as was, and just then he looked as if he wished he were somewhere else.

Suddenly the ranks of Abbey National drinkers parted and there scurried towards me past the left boot of Tim Timberlake, the chief general manager, was the world's most famous mouse.

"Mickey, er, Mr Mouse". I mumbled, introducing myself. It is not as though you do not meet all kinds in this job (certainly a few rats), but I did not feel at ease, I am with the Guardian Building Society myself.

"We now have Ronald Reagan and George Murphy in politics and now you in the money game."

"Why not?", he squeaked.

"Charlie, there", he beckoned Lord Hill, "he was a

radio star, kinda Doctor Kildare, right?"

"Walt, Walt Disney—that was a great guy—well, he died in 1966, but even before that I was having to reassess my career..."

Here Mouse broke off and glanced over his shoulder as the boardroom hubbub was riven by a drunken cackle from Donald Duck, who was attempting to swim around the punchbowl.

"... Donald, a great kiddie... Yeah, right from the start of our collaboration, Walt and me, I had sought script approval. No more of that 'Sorcerer's Apprentice' stuff with the mop and the pail could've typecast me as a loser from the start."

"Anyway, from there I was soon advising Walt on movie projects. Told him to film humans, too. I mean, how far

can you develop a character like Goofy?"

"Goofy?" I asked, looking around once more.

"Not arrived yet," said Lord Hill. "Something about opening the wrong door on the Concorde on his way over. Still swimming here."

"Does it all the time in the pictures", added Timberlake, who had just joined us and was still scowling at Donald, of whom a feathered rump was now the only thing visible above the punch.

Mouse went on to say that soon, with Hayley Mills in every other Disney movie, you would not be able to squeeze in a mouse edgewise and, he added, "a buck don't buy as much cheese as it used to."

"But, you know, it was the future that attracted me to this Abbey National deal. Buying a house is the best way of assuring the future—the future of Abbey National, anyway. And then, you know, I'm deeply religious..."

"Religious?"

"Yeah, religious. When your Lord Hill called me in LA with the proposition, I said, 'Your grace, I'd be proud to help.'"

"We had a real laugh about it, later, didn't we, Charlie?" Here Mouse gave a falsetto and elbowed the chairman in the kneecap.

"This ain't the way to Westminster", I told the cabbie on the way from the airport. And when we got to you, Baker Street, I said to Donald over there: 'Don't look like no abbe- to me nor no church either'.

"Hell—I mean, golly gee—how'm I supposed to know? You got monks in Europe make booze, right? Why not selling mortgages?"

He Lord Hill and Timberlake had bit it off from the start, Mouse told me.

"Tim and Charlie", he snickered, as Timberlake returned having just assisted Donald from the punch and on to a desk blotter, "they showed me the script of this guide, and wow! There were jokes in there I wish I had written!"

Mouse shinned up a chairleg and on to a nearby desk along side the still dripping duck and held up the guide.

"Look where it says 'Houses are very expensive—so people borrow a lot of money called a mortgage—and pay it back in small amounts over a number of years.'"

Good and getting hysterical am I right? But, listen, it goes on: 'They add a little money when they pay it back and that is called interest.'"

"Doesn't that kill you? The kids will love that one, as smart as they are nowadays. I know a professional when I see one."

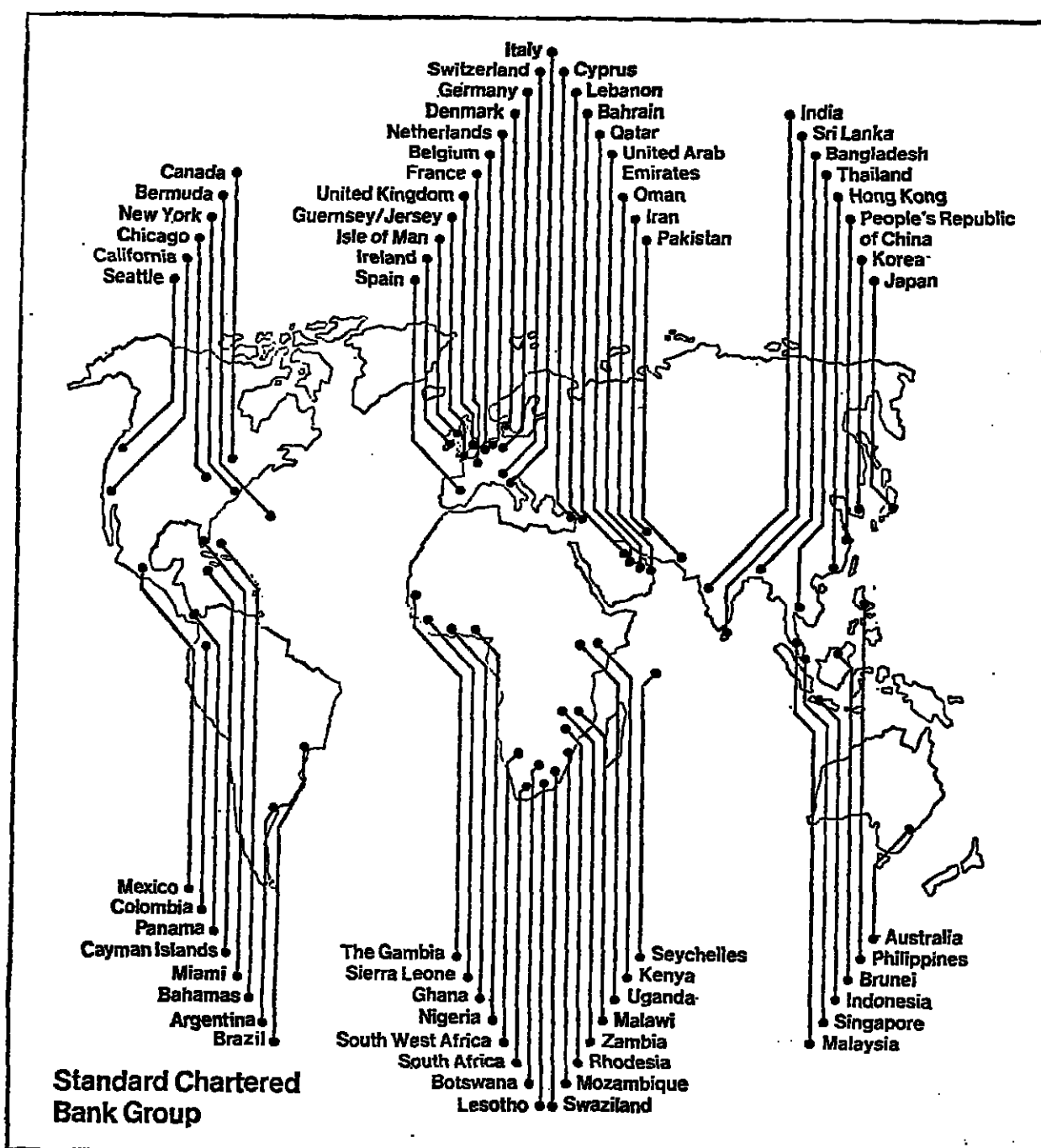
You know, Charlie and Tim, when they get tired of the building society business, they could write for Bob Hope."

Yesterday I heard my first "Shop early for Christmas" warning. It was from Ham-ley's, the London toyshop, and was on commercial radio (where else? Is this a record and are the staff getting their Christ-mas bonus yet?)

Ross Davies



Comments by the Chairman, The Rt. Hon. Lord Barber



GROUP RESULTS

The trading profits of the Bank and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31st March 1978 were £107.2 million and the Bank's share of associated companies' profits amounted to £18.9 million, giving total profits before taxation and extraordinary items of £126.1 million. This compares with £109.9 million in the previous year. Earnings per share amounted to 78.9p against 69.9p last year. At the end of March total Group assets stood at £8,494 million, compared with £7,653 million a year earlier.

When judging the results for the year it should be borne in mind not only that the economic climate in which the profits were earned was in general unfavourable, but also that, compared with last year, overseas earnings in sterling terms were reduced by the appreciation of the pound.

GROUP STRATEGY

The prime objective of our Corporate Strategy is to strengthen our position as a leading international bank and we are doing so by expansion in present and potential growth areas, extension of existing networks and the acquisition and establishment of new subsidiaries. We are concentrating on those activities in which we have proved our ability to succeed, namely commercial banking. In the course of the year the Bank and its subsidiaries opened or acquired a further 61 offices in various parts of the world, and we have increased our capacity to provide ancillary financial services.

More recently, shareholders will have seen the announcement of the agreement in principle for the acquisition by Standard Chartered of the business and assets of Union Bancorp in California, the main subsidiary of which is Union Bank. This is the most important development since the Standard Bank and The Chartered Bank joined forces just over eight years ago. The merger of our existing subsidiary in California with Union Bank will give Standard Chartered a substantial dollar based business in a major growth area. It will also improve the strength and balance of our worldwide banking operations.

STAFF

It may come as a surprise to some to learn of the size of the Standard Chartered family. At the end of 1977 employees of the Bank and its subsidiaries numbered 41,828.

The Group has in its constituent parts employees of all races and creeds, and wherever we operate throughout the world our policy is to create conditions for advancement on merit.

THOUGHTS ON STABILITY

I should like now to turn to a matter of direct concern to Standard Chartered, namely the free, or relatively free, pricing of currencies. Having had experi-

ence from a government standpoint with both fixed parities and floating rates, I have no doubt that the floating system is to be preferred. The world has in general been spared the very large speculative flows and harmful periods of suspense experienced under the fixed parity system while an official seal was being put on rate changes already foreshadowed on the markets.

Yet in terms of steadiness the floating system leaves much to be desired. Shifts in the view taken of currencies have generated understandable and legitimate attempts among dealers and businesses to anticipate market reactions, and their predictions have often been self-fulfilling.

In Europe, governments now have an opportunity to move towards agreement on a policy of constructive stabilization. The recent proposal of the West German Chancellor that there should be a partial pooling of official reserves within the European Economic Community with a view to more powerful and concerted intervention in currency markets points the way forward.

Some may view action of this kind as presaging moves to full Economic and Monetary Union. This is to place vision above practicality. The type of co-operation which I have touched upon, realistic in its aims and within the reach of governments, could contribute much to the confidence of the international trading and financial community.

Total Assets exceed £8,400m
Total Deposits exceed £7,900m
1,500 offices in 60 countries
around the world.

Copies of the Report and Accounts and of the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary, 10 Clements Lane, London EC4N 7AB

Standard Chartered helps you throughout the world

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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